FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT & SALT

Kuznetsov: Good Sense Will Prevail in U.S. SALT Debate [NOVOYE VREMYA 2 Mar] AA 1
U.S., USSR SALT Delegation Heads Meet 9 March AA 2

CSCE/MBFR

Soviet Delegate Criticizes West's Obstinacy at MBFR Talks [Maslov] BB 1
Talks Will 'Get Off Ground if West Responds Constructively' [Sibirtsev in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 5 Mar] BB 2

GENERAL

TRUD Views Support for SALT, U.S. Attitude Toward PRC [Babich 6 Mar] A 1
Soviet Delegate Speaks at Security Council Debate on Rhodesia A 3
Helsinki Conference in Support of Vietnam Ends A 3
Communique on East-West Cooperation Conference Reported [Maslov] A 4

UNITED STATES

Removal of Restrictions Necessary for Trade Normalization [Kraynev in IZVESTIYA 6 Mar] B 1
State Department Spokesman Praises Brezhnev Election Speech B 4
U.S. Plans New '5th Fleet' Based on Diego Gargia B 4
NEWSWEEK Report B 5
'Dangerous Self-Deception' for U.S. To Connive With PRC [Volskiy in NOVOYE VREMYA 2 Mar] B 5
Trudeau in Washington To Discuss Differences Over Energy [Bragin in PRAVDA] B 6
Pentagon Asking Congress for Record Military Appropriations [Bobikov] B 7

CHINA

Beijing Leaders' Actions Against SRV Scored [Lavrov] C 1

WEST EUROPE & CANADA

Soviet-French Relations Lauded Despite Some Problems [Vadimov in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 21 Feb] E 1
Italian Communists Will Not Impede New Government [Zafesov in PRAVDA 6 Mar] E 2

Christian Democratic Position Unchanged [Malyshev] E 2
British Book on Ultraleft Against Multinationals Scored [TRUD] E 3

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Reportage, Comment on President Carter's Mideast Trip F 1
Carter Arrives in Cairo F 1
Carter Favors Israel [Anikin] F 1
Kurdyumov on Trip [PRAVDA 8 Mar] F 1
Treaty Gives U.S. Free Hand [Timoshkin] F 2
Arab Reaction F 3
Arrival of U.S. Cruiser F 4
Commentary, Reportage on Developments in Iran F 4
U.S. Base Becomes Fishing Port [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 Mar] F 4
Akhmedzyanov Dispatch [IZVESTIYA 6 Mar] F 4
Egyptian Credit Agreements Annuled F 5
Latest Developments in Country [Stepanov in NOYOYE VREMYA 8 Mar] F 5
Oil Director on Production F 6
Soviet-Iranian Gas Agreement F 7
U.S. Middle East Plans 'Provocative Show of Force' F 7
F-15's Offered to Saudi Arabia F 7
Military Aid to YAR [(Blinov)] F 8
Inter-Arab Energy Conference Ends in Abu Dhabi F 8

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

NATO Naval Exercises Begin in Mediterranean G 1
Greek Foreign Minister Interviewed on Relations With USSR G 1
Greek Communist Youth Leader Has Talks in Moscow G 1
Briefs: Maltsev Receives Cypriot Ambassador G 1

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Nigeria Refuses To Refuel South African Vessel H 1
TASS Reports on Cooperation Between China, South Africa H 1
Warships To Visit Mauritius During March [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 Mar] H 1
ZAPU Official Condemns Rhodesian Elections Farce H 2
'Revolutionary Transformations' Taking Place in Eritrea [Pichugin] H 2

SOUTH ASIA

Kosygin Arrives in Delhi for Official Visit to India J 1
Stops Over in Tashkent J 1
Meets Leading Uzbek Workers J 1
Leaves Tashkent for Delhi J 1
Desai Welcomes Kosygin in Delhi J 2
TASS Scores AFP Report J 2
Vajpayee Interviewed on Visit J 3
Commentary Lauds USSR-Indian Cooperation [(Shetinkov)] J 3

Nationalist Party Wins Bangladesh Assembly Elections J 4
Commentary Hails Bangladesh Communist Party Anniversary J 4
[Puchkov]
Briefs: USSR-Indian Oil Exploration J 4

SOUTHEAST ASIA

SRV Official in Manila Issues Statement on PRC Withdrawal K 1
PRAVDA Reviews Soviet Book on Australian Foreign Policy K 1

INDOCHINA

Further Reportage on PRC Aggression Against SRV L 1
PRC Troop Withdrawal, Crimes L 1
VNA on PRC's Attacks L 1
Cambodia's Ros Samay Views Regional, Domestic Problems L 2
[Tavrovskiy in NOVOYE VREMYA 2 Mar]
Cambodian Leader Makes Statement on Receiving Lao Envoy L 4
Life Being Restored to Normal in Cambodia L 5
Laos Welcomes Soviet Statement on PRC Troops L 5
Lao Government Statement on PRC Threat Cited L 6
Lao Party Statement Stresses Support for Vietnam L 6
Briefs: Soviet-Vietnamese Scientific Cooperation L 6

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japanese Militarists' Arms Spending Pressure Dangerous M 1
[Vinogradov in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 Mar]
Japan 'Conniving' With PRC on Vietnam Aggression M 2
[Anatolyev]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Army Paper on Election Day Outlines Role of Defense R 1
[Editorial in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Mar]
Shcherbitskiy Views 1978 Results, Future Tasks for Ukraine R 2
[PRAVDA UKRAINY 27 Feb]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Radio Reports Agricultural Progress for 7-8 March T 1

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Col Gen Sobolev Hails Soviet Armed Forces on Army Day V 1
[SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 23 Feb]
Armed Forces Can Rapidly Acquire Any Weapon Used by Enemies V 2
[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 23 Feb]

KUZNETSOV: GOOD SENSE WILL PREVAIL IN U.S. SALT DEBATE

LD081327 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian 2 Mar 79 p 31 LD

[Vladlen Kuznetsov answer to reader's letter under rubric "Conversation With a Reader"--first graf is reader's letter]

[Text] The Soviet Union and the United States are close to completing talks on strategic offensive arms limitation. At the same time there are many reports in the press that more and more new nuclear arms programs are being elaborated in the United States. Surely this is not compatible? G. Dmitriyev, Leningrad.

What you and I, Comrade Dmitriyev, consider incompatible has long been treated as compatible in the Pentagon and, unfortunately, not only there. While agreeing to limit one arms system, they develop others as fast as they can. While showing a readiness to erect barriers to some types of weapons, they reject any barriers in other directions of the arms race. In a word, they combine detente with unrestrained militarization.

You encounter striking, sometimes fantastic contradictions in Washington's policy and strategy literally at every step. On the one hand it is admitted that mountains of weapons are far from the most reliable guarantee of the country's national security. There is an awareness that this security can be effectively insured by limiting and reducing the level of armaments on a mutual basis together with the Soviet Union and lessening military confrontation. Financial and economic considerations also play a part: Since the end of World War II Washington has spent $1 trillion on creating a nuclear arsenal. (If the United States rejects the agreement about which you are concerned, by some calculations, it will have to spend an additional $100 billion in the next 15 years). This trend is reflected in the interest in the successful completion of talks with the USSR on concluding a second strategic offensive arms limitation agreement--SALT II.

Speaking in Georgia the other day, President James Carter expressed the firm intention, in the assessment of the American press, of reaching agreement with the USSR, stressing that conclusion of a SALT agreement accords with U.S. national interests and will make peace more secure and reliable. I think we can agree completely with this assessment.

On the other hand, there is also the desire, under the pretext of that same national security, to achieve military superiority. You and I become convinced of this on looking at the U.S. draft budget: $10.8 billion for developing strategic forces and $3 billion directly for creation of nuclear weapons. And we are talking about the development of a new generation of strategic offensive arms. Moreover, the creation of the MX mobile ICBM's, the Trident submarine missile complex and cruise missiles indicates that there is a military political faction in the United States which is no stranger to plans for inflicting the "first strike."

Of course, Comrade Dmitriyev, you know that after signing, the SALT-II agreement has to be ratified, and only then will it come into force. The Washington administration has an interest in insuring that the agreement is ratified by the necessary two-thirds of votes in the Senate: One of the most important avenues of its foreign policy activity, as well as its prestige, are associated with this. [paragraph continues]

This also explains the fact that after a relatively long hesitation the White House and the State Department have finally begun to prepare the ground for ratification. This is not a simple task, since a strong opposition bent on rejecting the agreement has formed in the Senate.

How to obtain support for this document is, of course, a matter for the Washington administration, and for it alone. But there is one feature which cannot fail to cause concern. Some people would like to pacify the Senate and other "hawks" with a record military budget and far-reaching nuclear programs. Not for nothing have warnings been issued in the United States itself that the government is seeking the favor of SALT-II opponents with promises to develop weapons systems not necessary in insuring U.S. national security. (I cite only the opinion of the authoritative specialist Paul Warnke, who took part for a number of years in Strategic Arms Limitation Talks).

The complex struggle underway in the United States around the prospects for a SALT-II agreement need not, it seems to me, Comrade Dmitriyev, either surprise us or deprive us of optimism and faith that in the last analysis good sense will prevail.

U.S., USSR SALT DELEGATION HEADS MEET 9 MARCH

LD091134 Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 9 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 9, TASS--The heads of the delegations of the USSR and the USA at the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks had a meeting here today.

SOVIET DELEGATE CRITICIZES WEST'S OBSTINACY AT MBFR TALKS

ID0816Z2 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1319 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["Reaching Speedy Agreement--TASS headline]

[Text] Vienna, 8 March--TASS correspondent Igor Maslov reports:

The latest closed meeting of those taking part in the talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe was held in Vienna's Hofburg Palace today. Nickolay Tarasov, head of the Soviet delegation, spoke at it.

As the Soviet delegation's press attache reported at a meeting with journalists, the head of the USSR delegation in his speech drew the attention of the participants in the talks to the 2 March Moscow speech by Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in which important new proposals were raised, aimed at deepening detente and consolidating international peace and security.

Having read out the political assessment of the state of the Vienna talks given in Leonid Brezhnev's speech, the Soviet representative stressed that it made all the participants think seriously about an approach to solving the problems of mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe.

It was noted that, leaving on one side discussion of the cardinal issues of reduction and organizing an artificial row about methods of counting the sides' armed forces, the Western participants were deliberately trying not to reach agreement. A completely abnormal situation had come about where the representatives of the socialist countries were giving detailed explanations on the numbers of their forces, while the Western representatives were stubbornly avoiding answers about the figures they had announced. The USSR delegation called on the Western representatives either to substantiate their figures or to take the official data presented by the sides as a basis, and not to drag out the talks further.

Such a deliberate delay is specially unjustified now when, as a result of the compromise proposals of the USSR, the GDR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia of 2 June 1978, the positions of the sides on the basic issues of the talks had drawn considerably closer. The remaining differences spring from the desire of certain NATO countries to keep their hands free for increasing their forces even above the present level, and from their attempts to obtain unilateral advantages at the expense of the security of the Warsaw Treaty countries. It was stressed that the socialist states would not accept any unequal conditions, but that if the West displayed realism there would not be much difficulty in overcoming the remaining differences. In this connection it was noted that although it was 9 months to the day since the June proposals were brought up, the West had still not given any reply to them. This once again proved that the NATO countries are trying to avoid reaching agreement.

The Soviet delegation also criticized the West's obstinate refusal to accept the proposal of the socialist states not to increase the number of forces while the talks were in progress. Obviously someone in NATO finds it handier to repeat the tendentious assertions about the "growing Soviet threat," and under this pretext to increase vigorously its military potential, than to "freeze" on a mutual basis the numbers of forces both of the West and East at the present level.

It was noted in the speech of the head of the USSR delegation that there were still opportunities for achieving success at the Vienna talks, and that the way to this was in realizing the June proposals of the socialist countries. It is now up to the West.

The Soviet representative expressed the firm conviction that Leonid Brezhnev's clear assessment of the state of affairs at the Vienna talks, and his authoritative confirmation of the USSR's intention and that of the other socialist countries to achieve a real reduction in the level of military opposition on the continent would be a major stimulus for progress at the Vienna talks.

TALKS WILL 'GET OFF GROUND IF WEST RESPONDS CONSTRUCTIVELY'

LD081455 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Yu. Sibirtsev commentary: "When the Talks Are Retarded..."]

[Text] What is already the 17th round of the talks on mutual arms and forces reductions in central Europe is in progress in the Austrian capital. The participants in the Vienna forum are exchanging views, but still no progress, no real advance has been achieved.

"Let us take the Vienna talks," L.I. Brezhnev pointed out in his address to the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug. "They have currently become bogged down in arguments over methods of calculating the two sides' armed forces personnel--down to the last cook or medical orderly. Frankly speaking, this is merely a tactic on the part of the Western countries, an attempt to evade an agreement just when the sides' positions on the crux of the matter have drawn considerably closer."

The reasons for the hitch are the Western countries' unconstructive and inflexible position and the NATO members' reluctance to renounce their pet doctrines, which in no way accord with the new trends in Europe.

For a long time the Western representatives maintained that the socialist countries' reluctance to accept their idea of "collective ceiling" was the stumbling block at the talks. Remove this obstacle, they declared, and the talks will begin to move. Don't insist on reducing all types of troops, leave air forces on one side for the time being. And, finally, take into account the principle of proportionality when reducing troops and arms....

Wishing to break the deadlock in the talks and to give them businesslike impetus the Warsaw Pact states met the West halfway. They proposed common collective levels for both blocs--980,000 men from each side. Within the framework of these overall ceilings specific commitments would be established for reducing each participant's troops. They agreed to start disarmament with ground troops, freezing air forces at present levels. They also took account of the wishes regarding proportionality: In the first stage of the Soviet Union would withdraw from central Europe 30,000 military personnel and a considerable quantity of military equipment, including 1,000 tanks, on condition that the United States would reduce, and this would be on a lesser scale, its armed forces in the region.

In putting forward such wide-ranging and constructive proposals the socialist countries have gone more than half way.

What was the West's response to them? So far, unfortunately, there has not been any. The NATO delegates act as if there have not been any proposals.

But they burst into activity when it comes to questions leading the talks away from achieving specific results.

Western diplomats are resorting not only to arithmatic but to geometry of a kind; they have again started talking about asymmetrical, that is, unequal disarmament, although the socialist countries long ago proved this idea to be fallacious and unsound. They took a liking to asymmetry simply because in accordance with it the capitalist countries' troop reductions.... would have to be only 40 percent of those of the socialist countries!

Such excessive, to put it mildly, demands may well be unparalleled in the history of diplomatic negotiations. In international law there is an unwritten rule that if two equal partners sit at the negotiating table they assume equal commitments. Why on this occasion have the Western countries chosen to ignore this?

The explanations given are pretty strange. First, they say, the Warsaw Pact countries have military superiority in the reduction zone. Second, the United States is thousands of miles away from the reduction zone while the Soviet Union is on its doorstep.

It must be said outright: Both of these arguments are false and invented. In Europe there is presently military parity, approximate equality. This is an objective fact, acknowledged even in the West when, rather than engaging in propaganda, the real balance of forces is soberly assessed. Here is just one of many authoritative pieces of evidence. None other than FRG Defense Minister H. Apel stated recently: "At the present time we perceive by and large a military balance between East and West."

As for the different distances of the USSR and the United States from the region, the question arises: Why are only these two powers taken? After all 19 countries are holding the talks and the factors must be assessed in their entirety. For instance, most NATO countries, including those with large armies like the FRG, Italy and France are situated in the reduction zone or border directly upon it. Moreover, Western Europe has a highly ramified network of roads, pipelines and communications systems. And as for the remoteness of the United States, in our nuclear age with its ICBM's this problem is quite different from what it once was. Moreover, more than once during military maneuvers the Americans have already used the "air bridge" across the Atlantic by which troops were quickly airlifted to Europe.

The following must also be taken into account. As Comrade L. I. Brezhnev pointed out in his speech to voters, the Pentagon is pressuring the FRG in an attempt to persuade it to allow medium-range nuclear missile weapons aimed at the Soviet Union to be deployed in the country, in addition to the U.S. forward based facilities already there. Protests against this appear to have been voiced in the FRG. This is understandable; after all the implementation of these plans, like the U.S. military's schemes for neutron weapons would only bring about a further increase in tension in Europe, a new surge in the arms race and a sharp increase in the danger to the FRG itself.

NATO's line of dragging out the talks is starting to provoke criticism even in Western capitals. H. Wehner, leader of the Social Democratic Party fraction in the West German Bundestag, has stated that the delegation from Bonn is having a "retarding influence" on the talks. A. Pawelczyk, another prominent Social Democrat and an expert on disarmament problems, has criticized it for not wanting to make specific commitments for reducing the Bundeswehr.

They are again proposing counting and calculating, adding and subtracting, in order to ascertain the reason for the numerical discrepancies in the troop strength estimates of the two military groupings in central Europe. But doing this is not only unproductive but unnecessary, since the socialist countries make no secret of the size of their armies. They have given their Western partners precise and strictly verified figures about this.

The criticism is certainly valid. It could also be made of the other Western delegations which are harmonizing and coordinating their actions within the framework of NATO; and however hard Western propagandists try to justify NATO's position and make it look more attractive it is essentially unrealistic and designed to extract one-sided advantages.

The talks will get off the ground if the West responds constructively. Those who suppose that the socialist countries can be induced to make one-sided concessions are deeply mistaken. Reciprocity, equality of commitments made and nondetriment to either side's security are the indispensable conditions for talks on disarmament.

TRUD VIEWS SUPPORT FOR SALT, U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PRC

LD081409 Moscow TRUD in Russian 6 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Yu. Babich "International Review"]

[Excerpt] In the Interests of Detente

"The press has reported the creation of the 'Americans for SALT' organization in the United States. I would like to learn more about the American public movement in support of a new Soviet-American agreement to limit strategic offensive arms (SALT-II)"--writes S.A. Yashchenko, driver at the No 4 motor transport enterprise, Alma-Ata.

It is with great interest, as is apparent from press reports, that Americans have recently been familiarizing themselves with Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's statements at the meeting with voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug regarding the SALT-II agreement.

According to B. Hooks, executive secretary of an influential organization in the country--the Association for the Advancement of Colored People--the broad American public supports the idea expressed by L.I. Brezhnev to the effect that the drafting of the SALT-II agreement is one of the greatest tasks in the sphere of improving the international climate and disarmament and that more than 6 years of work on formulating the agreement is now apparently close to completion. The new agreement, in Hooks' opinion, will help to limit the arms race and to improve the international climate as a whole.

Hooks' statement reflects the sentiments of most Americans. As evidenced by a public opinion poll just carried out by the NBC radio and television company and AP, 81 percent of Americans now support the new agreement (last year it was 75 percent). Seeking at the same time to create a more favorable atmosphere in the country for the speediest conclusion and subsequent ratification of the agreement in the U.S. Senate, as well as to neutralize attempts by the opponents of detente to torpedo it on any pretext, a number of public organizations have mounted a national campaign to further mobilize public opinion in support of the SALT-II agreement. These include the organization which you mentioned, Comrade Yashchenko--"Americans for SALT"--"Women Fight for Peace" and a coalition called "The Progressive Union," which unites approximately 100 public organizations, including a number of labor unions.

Pursuing this campaign, representatives of the public are exposing the spuriousness of allegations by the opponents of detente that the SALT-II agreement "will give the Soviet Union one-sided advantages." Exposing such fabrications, J. Stone, director of the Federation of American Scientists, declared in the U.S. Congress that the agreement is mutually advantageous and accords with the national interests of the United States to no less a degree than those of the USSR, if only because it is the only reasonable alternative to the nuclear arms race. In addition, Stone pointed out, the absence of an agreement of this kind would mean that the United States would need to spend at least $100 billion to please the military-industrial complex over the next 15 years in addition to the $1 trillion already spent on the nuclear arms race--which would signify a heavy new burden on the American economy.

Representatives of the public oppose equally resolutely attempts by certain circles in the United States to "link" the question of the SALT-II agreement with other unrelated problems. Thus Democratic Senator G. Nelson, speaking in the Senate, called such actions "pernicious" and capable of harming the United States itself. The SALT agreement, Nelson emphasized, is too important to be made dependent on current fluctuations in the political climate.

Despite all the complexity of the struggle that has developed in the United States over the SALT-II agreement, however, the majority of Americans hope that commonsense will ultimately gain the upper hand and that the SALT-II agreement will become a political reality in the near future.

Encouraging the Aggressor

"The United States and other Western powers continue to maintain that they take a 'neutral' stand with regard to what they call the 'conflict' between China and Vietnam. Is it possible to agree with this?"--writes D. Ye. Sirko, foreman of the Frunze motor-building association, Kuybyshev.

Of course not. Although the majority of Western powers officially proclaim their "neutrality" with regard to the aggressive war unleashed by Beijing against the Vietnamese people, in fact there are very influential circles there whose policy is one of conniving with the aggressor and virtually encouraging him.

The pose of the ruling circles, however, does not inspire confidence even in bourgeois press organs in these countries themselves. Thus America's New York POST unequivocally declares that "the Chinese attack on Vietnam is the first fruit of the American policy of playing the 'China card,' but the pack, by all accounts, has been shuffled by Beijing...."

As U.S. Assistant Secretary of State R. Holbrooke testifies, the United States "knew that these events were imminent. In particular, Deng Xiaoping himself warned during his visit to the United States that China might take actions against Vietnam."

Consequently, Washington knew of the aggression being prepared and did nothing to prevent it: Is this not because some people in the U.S. ruling circles are not adverse to "settling accounts" with Vietnam for the shameful defeat inflicted on American imperialism some time ago? And was the newspaper NEWSDAY not right to bluntly declare recently: "There is every reason to believe that China would not have decided on aggression against Vietnam if it had not received tacit U.S. support"?

The stand taken by the United States and other Western powers of indirectly encouraging the aggressor has been reflected in speeches by their representatives on the UN Security Council, when they have tried to equate the aggressor with his victim.

Even Western political observers regard the visits made to Beijing by U.S. Treasury Secretary M. Blumenthal, British Industry Secretary E. Varley and a number of other high-ranking Western politicians as a kind of support for the aggressor. Pointing to the danger of forming this sort of bloc with Beijing, particularly at the very height of the aggression that it has unleashed against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the New York DAILY NEWS urges the leaders of Western powers, primarily the United States, to "behave very responsibly" and to renounce "possible deliveries of modern weapons and technology to China," particularly since it is not known against whom Beijing will direct these weapons next time.

In his speech at the election meeting for the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized that the danger of any form of complicity with Beijing's great-power, hegemonistic policy is now clearer than ever. Those players of political poker who determine the policies of Western countries obviously ought to heed this warning. Their irresponsible playing of the notorious "China card" is costing mankind too dearly.

SOVIET DELEGATE SPEAKS AT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON RHODESIA

LD060942 Moscow TASS in English 0808 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, March 6, TASS--The hypocritical stand of the West was sharply criticised in the U.N. Security Council, which discussed the situation in Rhodesia.

The Security Council convened at the request of the group of African states in connection with the Western powers' preparations for recognition of the illegal Smith regime.

To maintain the colonial order in Rhodesia and to continue the exploitation of the indigenous population, said M. Kharlamov, the Soviet representative, the racists and their patrons in the West resort to the most diverse strategems. This refers to the enlistment of the services of local collaborationists, attempts to split the ranks of the Patriotic Front, and calculations to circumvent the economic sanctions, and, lastly, the course for implementing the so-called "internal settlement."

The Soviet delegation once again reaffirms the principled stand of the USSR--a just solution to the problem of South Rhodesia is only possible through exact fulfillment of the relevant resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council, through strict, scrupulous and full application of sanctions against the Smith regime and the Republic of South Africa, backing it. The Soviet Union is going to continue supporting the peoples' struggle for their liberation, for the abolition of the colonialist-racist regimes.

HELSINKI CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF VIETNAM ENDS

LD081506 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Helsinki, March 8, TASS--The extraordinary international conference in support of Vietnam ended here today. It was held under the patronage of Urho Kaleva Kekkonen, the president of Finland. The conference was attended by representatives of over a hundred countries and thirty international organizations, various political parties, trade unions, women's and youth organisations, national committees for peace and solidarity with Vietnam, by prominent public and religious figures, by ministers and deputies of parliaments.

They demanded that the Chinese troops be immediately and unconditionally withdrawn from the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and emphasized the necessity to make more active the worldwide campaign of solidarity with the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the Chinese aggressors.

At the closing meeting the participants in the international forum unanimously adopted an appeal to the world public--"Hands off Vietnam!" an address to the Chinese people, as well as other documents.

COMMUNIQUE ON EAST-WEST COOPERATION CONFERENCE REPORTED

LD081848 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["In the Spirit of Helsinki"--TASS headline]

[Text] Vienna, March 8, TASS--TASS correspondent Igor Maslov reports:

Economic, scientific and technical cooperation between countries with different social systems is one of the elements of peaceful coexistence, emphasizes the final communique of the second international conference "New Initiatives in East-West Cooperation". The conference which ended in the Austrian capital was attended by prominent representatives of the business circles of 14 European countries and the USA, non-governmental organizations, international and national commissions for European security and cooperation as well as by a delegation of the USSR.

The participants in this big forum discussed matters aimed at further developing cooperation in the fields of energy, trade, science, technology, transport and environmental protection between countries with different social systems.

The Vienna conference, the communique says, made a big contribution to deepening mutual understanding among the peoples, to implementing the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation. It promoted to a large extent the preparation of the forthcoming Madrid meeting of representatives of the states which had participated in the European conference.

The participants in the Vienna meeting unanimously stated an expansion of cooperation between countries of the East and West in the fields of trade, industry, energy, science and technology, environmental protection, transport as well as in other fields of economic activities. This helps to more rationally utilise resources, hasten economic and social progress, and improve living conditions. At the same time the expansion of cooperation serves to consolidate peace and strengthen security in Europe and throughout the world.

Emphasized at the conference were a desire and aspiration to promote the realisation of the Final Act of the European conference, and to further the process of relaxation of tensions.

International economic cooperation, the document points out, must be based on principles of universal equality, mutual advantage, the granting of the best terms in trade as well as on other forms of external economic, scientific and technical contacts.

Of exceptional importance is the fact that the spirit of Helsinki, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence dominated our meeting, Ernst Wesselsky, a prominent Austrian political and public figure, said in an interview with the TASS correspondent. The meeting passed under the watchword of further consolidation of detente.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS NECESSARY FOR TRADE NORMALIZATION

LD081555 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[N. Kraynev article: "What Is Hampering Soviet-U.S. Trade" carried under the rubric "Problems and Opinions"]

[Text] The development of trade between the USSR and the United States cannot be regarded as anything other than an important and essential element in the matter of improving Soviet-U.S. relations as a whole. This fundamental proposition is enshrined in the well-known document "Basic Principles of Mutual Relations Between the USSR and the United States" and was confirmed once again at the seventh session of the Soviet-U.S. intergovernmental commission on trade questions which took place in Moscow at the end of last year.

The question naturally arises as to how this proposition is being implemented in practical terms. Unfortunately, judging from the present state of Soviet-U.S. trade, the answer to this question is quite simple--it is being implemented unsatisfactorily. And the reasons for this, whether or not the Americans agree, must be sought in the United States.

Influential Washington circles sometimes reason approximately as follows: First of all, it is necessary to improve political relations between the two countries, and then to engage in trade.

Of course, the better the political climate in relations between countries the easier it is to develop trade between them. But this link also operates in reverse. The broader trade is, the firmer relations between states become.

L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, noted in his 6 December 1978 Kremlin speech: "For our part we consistently advocate the development of economic relations with the United States on the clear and honest principles of equality and mutual advantage. We see this as a reliable foundation. By relying on this it is easier to build successfully the complex edifice of Soviet-U.S. relations as a whole and to consolidate mutual trust and understanding."

Yes, the edifice of Soviet-U.S. cooperation must be erected on a broad front, with work performed simultaneously on all its main structural elements. Artificially retarding work in one of its sectors means delaying and rendering more difficult the solution of the whole task. And here, as a brake on the development of trade, the policy of "linking" it with unrelated questions is being used in the United States.

This involves a tendency which has been revived in recent years in the United States toward "politicizing" trade with the USSR and using it as small change in the political maneuvers of the opponents of detente and disarmament. The legislative trade and credit restrictions with respect to the USSR which were introduced in the United States in 1974 had no economic basis and were dictated by their initiators' political calculations. By all accounts, the authors of these restrictions reasoned like this: Let us "put a bit more pressure" on the USSR in the trade sphere. This will make the solution of economic problems more difficult for the Soviet Union and force it to be "more tractable" in other issues.

It was as if these people had forgotten that pressure and coercion against the Soviet Union have never yielded and could not yield any results.

In 1946 the United States, despite a relevant agreement with the USSR, stopped dispatching equipment and materials to us which had been ordered on the basis of lend-lease but had still not been delivered by the time lend-lease deliveries ended. This, of course, caused Soviet organizations definite losses. But the calculations that the restoration of the USSR's national economy would be retarded proved to be built on a very flimsy foundation.

The rigid controls on exports to the USSR which were introduced in 1948, the prohibitions on the delivery of a wide range of goods for "strategic considerations," the unilateral denunciation in 1951 by the U.S. side of the 1937 Soviet-U.S. trade agreement, and a whole series of other similar measures of a discriminatory nature--all this was the result of the cold war against the USSR and a means of waging it.

But what was the outcome: The USSR successfully solved all its economic tasks and moved into leading positions in crucial fields of the economy, science and technology. But trade between the two countries suffered and it had been virtually reduced to zero by the mid-fifties. Business contacts between U.S. firms and Soviet foreign trade organizations were artificially curtailed.

It would seem that the decisions and accords adopted in the early seventies at the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings and the agreements concluded on the basis of these decisions and accords created a powerful impetus and revealed extremely favorable prospects for the development of trade between the two countries. The rapid expansion of trade ties in 1972-1974 graphically confirm this.

But subsequent years showed that the prejudices engendered by the cold war are still tenacious in the United States. This is one of the reasons why trade and credit restrictions were adopted against the USSR in 1974, which halted the development of trade between the two countries. And once again life has shown that such a policy in trade affairs with the USSR--a policy which transforms trade from an effective means of improving relations into an object of political bargaining--is fruitless. There is a growing conviction in the United States itself that this policy has not produced either a political or an economic effect. Even certain of the initiators of the well-known discriminatory amendments to trade legislation have reached this conclusion.

The U.S. press recently noted that the failure to grant the Soviet Union normal trade terms is hurting the pride of the Soviet people. But it is not so much here a matter of pride as of the fact that the Soviet people cannot understand why, in a peaceful sphere of mutual relations like trade, political intrigues are being indulged and attempts are being made to use trade for interference in our internal affairs.

There is also evidence available of the economic cost of all kinds of barriers to trade. The total volume of trade between the USSR and the United States is shrinking. Exports of U.S. industrial goods to the USSR are falling. Soviet exports to the United States are being artificially restricted to a minimal level. Under these conditions doubts are naturally arising as to the reliability of the United States as a trading partner. Trust--the fundamental basis for the establishment of stable and long-term economic relations--is being undermined and this is having an adverse effect on contacts between businessmen of both countries, which they have expended much effort and money to establish.

Nevertheless, voices continue to be heard in the United States attempting to justify the trade and credit restricting against the USSR. [paragraph continues]

Whatever equipment we may purchase in the United States, the U.S. press and certain officials too seek to attribute to the fact that the Soviet Union has no other alternative than to buy it in the United States. The fact is ignored that we are talking about equipment manufactured in other countries too. The purchase of this equipment in the United States is explained by commercial considerations, that is, in this specific instance the U.S. firms have simply proved to be competitive. But the competitiveness of U.S. firms has been reduced because of artificial restrictions on trade with the USSR and the following figures provide evidence of this: Imports of U.S. equipment into the Soviet Union, which reached R621 million in 1976, fell to R300 million in 1978 and the trend is that they will diminish further.

The U.S. side sometimes presents the matter as if Soviet-U.S. trade might be developed within the framework of the existing U.S. trade and credit legislation. It is necessary to clarify this question. Our country does not intend to curtail trade with the United States simply because discrimination exists. No one intends to deliberately deprive U.S. firms of the opportunity to conclude deals on suitable terms with Soviet organizations. Some progress in trade is not ruled out. However, this progress, even if it is possible, will not have a stable and firm basis. It may, most likely, be connected with factors of a circumstantial and short-term nature.

Quite different and far more favorable prospects for the development of Soviet-U.S. trade could be revealed if the conditions for this were normalized. For this both states have at their disposal tremendous economic, scientific, technical and foreign trade potential.

The following fact alone attests to how earnest is the Soviet organizations' intention to work on a large scale in the U.S. market when the necessary conditions are created for this. In 1974 the Soviet side drew up a comprehensive long-term program for the development of trade and economic relations with the United States, designed for a considerable expansion of trade. The program outlined specific goods, projects and areas for cooperation. And if this program was not destined to come into being and to become the basis for major practical deeds, the reasons for this are not to be sought in the Soviet Union.

U.S. business circles which are interested in the development of trade with the USSR also see its great potential. This was graphically confirmed by the sixth session of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council in Moscow at the beginning of December 1978, attended by almost 400 U.S. businessmen. The resolution adopted at the council session notes that the present level of trade between the two countries is substantially lower than that which would befit trade between the two leading industrially developed countries of the world. Prominent leaders of the biggest U.S. companies and banks repeatedly stressed during the council's work and in their statements after returning to the United States that there are great opportunities for trade with the USSR, that it is possible and necessary to use these opportunities in the common interest, and that the path toward this lies in eliminating the restrictions introduced by the U.S. Congress.

It is at present difficult to say how events in the sphere of Soviet-U.S. trade will develop, and in particular whether these trade conditions will be normalized. There is no shortage of forecasts on this score in the United States. It is being said, in particular, that this year there could be progress in revising the discriminatory trade legislation with respect to the USSR.

At the beginning of February the U.S. press reported that Senator A. Stevenson and Congressman L. Aucoin had introduced bills aimed at altering this legislation. As far as is known, this is the first such step in the U.S. Congress. These bills were immediately given a hostile reception by Senator H. Jackson who, not for the first time, is creating difficulties on the path toward normalizaing Soviet-U.S. trade relations. Time will show how events will develop. I should like, however, to stress that the essence of trade normalization must consist in the complete removal of the obstacles which are preventing the entry into force of the trade agreement signed between the two countries in 1972 and not in the modification or camouflaging of the existing abnormal situation.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PRAISES BREZHNEV ELECTION SPEECH

LD081317 Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["Statement by spokesman for the U.S. State Department"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 8 TASS--A spokesman for the U.S. State Department made the following statement in connection with the speech by General Secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev at the meeting of electors of Moscow's Bauman electoral district, pointing out that the U.S. side has attentively studied Leonid Brezhnev's speech, and positively assessed the accent he had made touching upon the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic arms and the forthcoming meeting with President J. Carter. The USA hopes on its part for a meeting between the two leaders in the near future, he said.

The spokesman for the State Department went on to note that the prospect for the possible speedy conclusion of an agreement on the limitation of strategic arms must give an impetus to other important talks in the field of limitation of arms.

U.S. PLANS NEW '5TH FLEET' BASED ON DIEGO GARCIA

LD091015 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 9 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, March 9, TASS--The Pentagon is making plans for creating a new fleet in the Indian Ocean in order to ensure a constant American military presence in the area. As was said by a spokesman of the Defence Department this question is now being considered by the U.S. Government. He said that the naval forces and the Pentagon's specialised bodies have begun studying possible ways of increasing American naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Among these ways he mentioned specifically the creation of a new fleet and development of the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia Island.

Commenting on the statement by the Pentagon spokesman, UPI says that the increasing American naval activity in the Indian Ocean has been a direct result of the recent trip to the Middle East by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown who probed opportunities for knocking together a new military bloc in the area.

New York, March 9, TASS--The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Pentagon are planning to set up a new naval formation that will permanently stay in the Indian Ocean, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR reports. This formation, named the Fifth Fleet, is to "ensure the safety" of oil supply routes leading from the Arab countries to the Far East and to the Western countries. To provide services for the Fifth Fleet the United States intends to enlarge its port facilities in Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Diego Garcia base in the centre of the Indian Ocean holds an important place in the Pentagon's plans. The newspaper says the United States intends to use soon a number of Egyptian military bases for stationing its planes there.

NEWSWEEK Report

LD061620 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1505 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD

["Dangerous Designs"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York--The weekly NEWSWEEK writes of the U.S. intention to expand its "military presence" in the region of the Indian Ocean and the Near East. Noting that "after the fall of the shah's regime in Iran Washington began to search for ways of increasing its forces" in that region, the magazine reports several substantive plans or "ideas," the purpose of which boils down to building up U.S. military might far beyond the confines of the United States.

The article says that in the Indian Ocean basin Washington attaches particular importance to expanding its military base on Diego Garcia. Here the work on modernizing the airport is in full swing in order to enable it to receive such aircraft as the B-52. A large batch of submarine surveillance [protivolodochnoye patrulirovaniye] aircraft, carrying out tasks of military intelligence over large areas of the ocean, is also stationed in Diego Garcia.

At the same time, NEWSWEEK notes, it is planned to set up an independent U.S. naval fleet [eskadr] in the Indian Ocean. As is known, the New York TIMES, on the basis of statements by Pentagon representatives, wrote recently about plans to station in that region a fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, destroyers and landing ships with helicopters on board.

In the Middle East, according to NEWSWEEK the United States may get the Ezyon air base in the Israeli-occupied Sinai Desert from Israel and station F-4 fighters there. This would make it possible "to have the whole of this vitally important region in their gun sights." The plan for a transfer by Israel to the United States of the port of Sharm ash-Shaykh on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula is also not being removed from the agenda.

In this connection the magazine reports that during his latest trip to a number of Middle East countries, U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown secured Egypt's agreement to the passage of U.S. warships through the Suez Canal. The port of Sharm ash-Shaykh could serve as a home port [port pripiski] for them.

'DANGEROUS SELF-DECEPTION' FOR U.S. TO CONNIVE WITH PRC

LD081423 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian 2 Mar 79 p 14 LD

[Dmitriy Volskiy article under rubric "Frankness for Frankness": "Dangerous Self-Deception"]

[Text] Speaking in Georgia on 20 February, U.S. President J. Carter said, in particular, in connection with the Chinese troops' invasion of Vietnam:

"There is no direct threat to our national interests, although we are concerned by the wider consequences of what is happening now. We are using all diplomatic and political means at our disposal to induce all sides to show restraint...."

Let us say at once: This position of Washington's expresses relatively open connivance with the aggressors. There is no other way to assess an appeal for "restraint" when it is addressed to the victim of aggression. And the artificial "linkage" between the Chinese invasion of Vietnam and the situation in Kampuchea is playing into Beijing's hands completely. The United States was not ashamed of resorting to this method and thereby taking under its patronage not only the Chinese interventionists in Vietnam, but also the bloody, pro-Beijing Pol Pot clique, overthrown by the Kampuchean people.

It is surprising that many observers are asking themselves: Was not the Chinese attack on Vietnam agreed on in advance, say, during the recent visit to the United States by Deng Xiaoping, or even earlier--during Z. Brzezinski's May trip to China? There is too much "coincidentally" in common between the statements of Z. Brzezinski and his Chinese friends! First Deng's new partners also wanted to "teach" the Vietnamese people a lesson, in vengeful resentment for the defeat inflicted on them 5 years ago. Then it is a question of an attempt at the global distribution of roles in the struggle against liberation forces. But the fact remains: The Beijing militarists violated the peace at a time when the Chinese lanterns lit in Washington in honor of the rapprochement between the two countries had scarcely had time to dim. And this, of course, is not a simple coincidence. The entire system of Chinese-American ties now being established, the plans for supplying Beijing with Western weapons and creating an "Eastern NATO"--this, without doubt, helped to free the aggressors' hands.

The Chinese militarists have already more than once undertaken a "trial of strength" against various states. Let us recall only the military show near the Senkaku Islands, which was organized literally on the eve of the conclusion of a treaty between Beijing and Tokyo. And surely it was the same Deng Xiaoping, visiting Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore in November, who threatened to activate subversive pro-Beijing groupings in countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] unless those countries follow Chinese diktat? It is obvious that not even close relations with the West act as a guarantee against pressure from Beijing.

Beijing has now proved once again that it is prepared, with criminal facility, to take up arms against its Asian neighbors. Under these conditions the Vietnamese people's courageous rebuff of the Chinese invasion is fully in accordance with the ASEAN countries' needs of security and independence also. Speaking in Georgia, J. Carter called them U.S. "friends and allies." "Their further stability and prosperity," he said, "are of great significance for us." But it is Beijing's aggressive expansionism which is jeopardizing not only the "stability and prosperity" of Southeast Asian countries but their very national existence. The mass carnage inflicted by Maoist henchmen in Kampuchea will hardly be forgotten. Nor will the outrages committed by the Chinese aggressors in border regions of Vietnam.

Of course, it is not for us to tell American politicians who is threatening U.S. "national interests" and who is not. But it is dangerous self-deception to believe that connivance with the aggressor accords with U.S. interests.

TRUDEAU IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS DIFFERENCES OVER ENERGY

LD061936 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada has made a 1-day visit to the United States. The visit was prompted by growing differences between the two countries and first of all over energy problems. Mr Trudeau met with President Carter.

Here's what the correspondent of the Soviet national daily PRAVDA, Nikolay Bragin, reports from Canada:

The Canadian prime minister said in his statement on television that when talking with President Carter he asked why the United States was procrastinating the building of its gas pipelines that would cross the Canadian territory from Alaska to the United States' northern border. As it is, the construction of the pipelines will enable Ottawa to further reduce the supplies to the United States of Canadian oil and gas, greatly needed for home consumption. Under the circumstances the United States President had to give assurances that the United States would soon start building the pipelines.

PENTAGON ASKING CONGRESS FOR RECORD MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS

LD090326 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1916 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["Pentagon: Reinforcing the Military Machine"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington--TASS correspondent Albert Bobikov reports:

The Pentagon is stepping up its efforts aimed at winning Congressional approval for record allocations of $138.2 billion to be assigned for military purposes in FY 1980. Speaking recently to legislators, U.S. Defense Secretary Brown argued for "strengthening American military might," giving as the reason for this the mythical "Soviet threat". This campaign has now been actively joined by Secretary of the Army Alexander and U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Rogers. Speaking in the Senate allocations committee, they called upon legislators to approve an infantry troops budget for the new fiscal year of $33.2 billion, and also to assign an additional $1 billion this year for military expenditures.

As is clear from what they said, the army command will in FY 1980 devote special attention to raising the combat readiness and level of technical equipping of American formations [soyedinoniya] integrated organizationally into the aggressive NATO bloc and stationed in Western Europe.

B. Rogers stated that plans exist to rearm the U.S. Ground Forces. Among the new types of weapons he cited the XM-1 tanks, infantry combat vehicles, and the ("Stingers") ("Patriot"), and ("Roland") missile systems. Moreover, the Pentagon intends in the near future to intensify the nuclear potential of its troops in Western Europe and to create special units for carrying out chemical warfare.

B. Rogers stressed that the U.S. Army was preparing to use the neutron weapon in the West German theater of military activities. As is known, last year the U.S. Government decided to begin production of the "basic components" of this barbarous weapon.

Pentagon representatives have continued to cover up the aggressive essence of their militarist plans with reference to the notorious "military threat" allegedly stemming from the Soviet Union.

BEIJING LEADERS' ACTIONS AGAINST SRV SCORED

OW090257 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0730 GMT 8 Mar 79 OW

[Lavrov commentary]

[Excerpts] The Chinese invasion of Vietnam launched by the ruling clique in Beijing has brought the Chinese people, particularly PLA officers and men, disastrous losses. More than 42,000 Chinese officers and men were killed in action on Vietnamese soil. Thus, more than 42,000 Chinese mothers will never see their sons again. This is the price paid in blood by the Chinese leaders who had wanted to "punish" Vietnam. Chinese leaders respond ambiguously to foreign reporters' questions on Chinese losses in Vietnam. But the leaders go out of their way to boast that China dealt a "telling blow" to Vietnam.

The INDONESIAN OBSERVER newspaper said: Developments in Indochina show that Deng Xiaoping and his new friends have miscalculated. Instead of teaching Vietnam a lesson, Beijing has been taught a lesson. The aggressor troops have been deeply bogged down on Vietnamese soil. The situation on the front is favorable to Vietnam.

The ruling clique in Beijing, pursuing a bloody adventure, sent troops to trample underfoot Vietnam, which had already been disaster-stricken, and ordered Chinese soldiers to adopt a "burn-all" tactic in Vietnam. To defend themselves against these acts, Beijing leaders concocted lies saying that China was "counterattacking" Vietnam in self-defense, that the PLA invasion of Vietnam was "just" and that the mission was similar to a "liberation." According to this gangster logic, it was not China that launched an attack on Vietnam on 17 February with more than 10 divisions and a large amount of military supplies; it was Vietnam that attacked China. If that were the case why did the fighting occur on Vietnamese soil? Why were Vietnamese cities and villages flattened by shells? I believe all Chinese soldiers can distinguish between truth and lies and between black and white. PLA commanders and fighters and particularly veteran soldiers know very well what is a true counterattack, a true liberation mission and a just military activity.

The Chinese people and their armed forces waged a war of liberation and resistance against Japan from 1937 to 1945. This was a war of oppose the militarists' trampling of Chinese soil and the plundering and slaughtering of the Chinese people. To the Chinese people this war was a sacred and just war. The present ruling clique in Beijing, as with the Japanese and U.S. imperialists of other days, have used the Vietnamese people as a target in pursuit of vicious expansionism and have even disregarded the 5 March XINHUA statement on withdrawing Chinese aggressor troops in Vietnam back to the Chinese border. This statement shows that the Beijing leaders covet Vietnamese territory. Therefore, it is no accident that the number of Chinese troops invading Vietnam is greater than the number of U.S. ground troops in Vietnam during the U.S. intervention in Indochina.

In these difficult days the Vietnamese people have only one high and noble aim: To defend their freedom and independence and their right to build socialism. Therefore, the Vietnamese Armed Forces, as with the PLA when it fought against Japanese armed aggressors, are fighting heroically for the people's welfare. The Chinese leaders concocted ugly lies about the PLA's "just counterattack" to conceal their gangster-type acts against the Vietnamese people. When Chinese troops occupied a number of Vietnamese areas and provincial capitals, the Chinese ruling clique proposed to Vietnam that "negotiations" be held. This is only a deceiving trick. Only when Chinese leaders immediately and unconditionally withdraw their troops to their own side of the historic border and when there is not a single aggressor troop on Vietnamese soil, will Vietnam hold negotiations with China to restore normal relations between the two countries.

SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONS LAUDED DESPITE SOME PROBLEMS

LD081619 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Feb 79 p 3 LD

[N. Vadimov dispatch: "A Firm Foundation for Cooperation"]

[Text] Paris--Here in Paris I recently attended the latest session of the "little" joint Soviet-French Commission on Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation. Various practical questions concerning the development of bilateral relations were resolved. The session was a routine one, but its very routine and everyday character underlined the special meaning of Soviet-French cooperation.

Twelve years ago the governments of both countries signed the Soviet-French declaration. Since then much has been done to strengthen and develop good-neighborly relations between our countries. Credit for this belongs to both countries' political leaders, who have consistently upheld the policy of expanding and strengthening wide-ranging and mutually beneficial Soviet-French cooperation.

In the motley, noisy stream of traffic in the streets of Paris the familiar silhouettes of our Lada cars flash by, and there's a Niva darting between the Peugeots, Citroens, and Renaults.... In newspapers and magazines you find advertisements for Soviet watches, clocks and other goods produced by us, which enjoy a high reputation among French consumers. The French are readily able to familiarize themselves with our art, in the form of exhibitions, festivals and performances by Soviet ensembles.

Regular summit meetings between the two countries' leaders help to resolve the most burning issues of our time. The last meeting between Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and French President Giscard d'Estaing, which took place in Rambouillet in June 1977, reaffirmed the commonality of the Soviet Union and France's positions on a number of major international questions. The nature of Soviet-French cooperation is turning it into a constant and weighty factor in the international arena.

The increasing friendship between our countries' peoples is nourished by deeds and aspirations contributing to detente. Life shows that a common political will not to stop at what has been achieved exists. The talks between Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and French Foreign Minister J. Francois-Poncet, who recently paid an official visit to the USSR, were devoted to important questions of Soviet-French relations. In connection with these talks the French public noted that the USSR and France are imbuing detente with rich substance.

At present France ranks fourth among the USSR's West European economic partners. The task now is to considerably increase trade. A good rate has been achieved. Trade in the last 4 years was more than R6 billion. This more than doubled the level of trade in the previous 5 years. Both the French and the Soviet sides have agreed to take the necessary steps to achieve the goal they have set--to triple trade between 1975 and 1979 and at the same time to insure more balanced trade between the two countries, particularly by increasing the supply of Soviet machinery to France.

The great successes in scientific and technical cooperation include the installation of French laser reflectors on Soviet Lunokhods and the Cytos joint biological experiment carried out aboard the Salyut-6 orbital station.

The level of Soviet-French cooperation which has been achieved requires that its long-term development prospects be defined. For this reason it was decided at the Rambouillet summit in June 1977 to work out an economic and industrial cooperation program to cover the period through 1990.

It would be wrong, however, to maintain that all is well in the development of Soviet-French relations. Articles either distorting the Soviet Union's policies or attributing intentions to it which it does not have quite frequently appear in the French press. Unfortunately, perorations about an alleged "Soviet military threat" are making the rounds of the press organs. Even a serious newspaper like LE MONDE recently started frightening its readers with the myth about "plans to march Soviet troops to the banks of the Rhine within 48 hours."

But today it is not the forces opposing the detente policy which determine the mood of most Frenchmen. Soviet-French relations are described in Paris as preferential. This is an acknowledgment of their durability and long-term prospects. The upcoming visit to the USSR by French President Giscard d'Estaing will be another step along the path of further developing, expanding and deepening relations between our countries and a contribution to peace and detente throughout the world.

ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WILL NOT IMPEDE NEW GOVERNMENT

LD081157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent G. Zafesov dispatch: "New Round of Consultations"]

[Text] Rome, 5 March--President of the Republic A. Pertini today begins a new round of consultations with representatives of the political parties on settling the government crisis. In the opinion of local newspapers, there now exist two ways out of the prevailing situation: either early parliamentary elections, or a government appointed by the country's president himself.

The bourgeois press is again attempting to place the responsibility for the acute political crisis on the Italian Communist Party. Voices among the Socialist Party leadership are now joining in these accusations. In response to this L'UNITA once again points out that in actual fact the government crisis is caused by the Christian Democratic Party's desire to preserve its political monopoly and also by the Socialist Party's ambiguous position.

The communists declare that even in the event of a switch to the opposition they will not impede the creation of a new government. In that case the opposition will play a constructive role, having the opportunity to make particular proposals and also reserving the right to criticize the government's actions.

Christian Democratic Position Unchanged

LD090338 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1043 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["Italy: The Uncertain Prospects of the Crisis"--TASS headline]

[Excerpts] Rome--TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev reports: Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, whom the Italian president has charged with forming a new government, today begins consultations to settle the governmental crisis which has been continuing in the country for 5 weeks.

Local observers are extremely cautious in assessing the prospects of these consultations. It is known that the former attempts to form a cabinet failed as a result of the Christian Democratic Party's stubborn rejection of the communists' proposals to create a government with the participation of all democratic parties or, at least, to include in its membership politicians recommended by leftist parties. The Christian Democrats have not announced any review of their position and therefore it is uncertain how Giulio Andreotti hopes to overcome the obstacles which led to the failure of his previous attempt to form a cabinet.

BRITISH BOOK ON ULTRALEFT AGAINST MULTINATIONALS SCORED

LD021330 Moscow TASS in English 1301 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--The book "The Ultra-Left Offensive Against Multinational Companies" by Deputy Director of the London Foreign Affairs Research Institute Ian Grieg is a rough propaganda paper directed against Soviet trade unions, the international workers' and trade union movement, writes in the newspaper TRUD veteran of the British and international workers' and communist movement Robert Ramelson.

Robert Ramelson points out that the only possible explanation for the publication of the book now is perhaps the desire to belittle the successes of the international trade union movement in the struggle for fundamental interests for the working people, primarily in the development of the international trade union unity. An obvious testimony of this is a rapidly growing reciprocal exchange of trade union delegations of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries with British trades unions and trade unions of other capitalist countries of the West. The author and his patrons, the review points out, are terrified at the determination of many leaders of the trade union movement to put an end to the "cold war" atmosphere, to firmly stand on the positions of relaxation of international tension, to exert a constant pressure upon the governments of their countries with a view to promote implementation of the Helsinki accords, to stop the arms race.

Besides, the cause of their concern are unprecedented proportions of strike struggles in which factory and office workers resolutely uphold their economic and political rights, and also carry out a purposeful offensive against a very dangerous class enemy --multinational monopolies which have secured a grip on the economy of capitalist countries. Therefore, the author to please his patrons uses all methods of the "yellow press"--downright lies, half-truth, evil slander. Robert Ramelson writes that the book "The Ultra-Left Offensive Against Multinational Companies" is indicative of the fear of economic successes of the Soviet Union, other countries of the socialist community, as compared with a deep crisis in the world of capital. No efforts of any governments, either Labour, or the more so Conservative, succeed in overcoming it in concrete conditions of Britain. And the result is the ever growing wrath of the British working class, which manifested itself this winter in a mammoth strike offensive.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDEAST TRIP

Carter Arrives in Cairo

ID081458 Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 8 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Cairo, March 8, TASS--The United States President James Carter today arrived in Cairo where he is to meet with Anwar as-Sadat, the president of Egypt, in order to urge him to sign a separate deal with Israel at an earliest date. After visiting Egypt, James Carter is also to visit Israel. During his tour of the Middle East the U.S. President will also try to implement the Pentagon's plans, which became known to the public recently, to increase U.S. military presence in the Middle East.

Talks on this matter were held in Arab capitals and in Tel Aviv recently by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown.

The plans are giving rise to a sharp criticism in most of Arab countries which consider that a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal and an increase in U.S. military presence in the Middle East will make it difficult to achieve a just and lasting peace in the area.

Carter Favors Israel

ID081400 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Anikin]

[Text] President Carter is due in Cairo today on an official visit. The second stage of his Near East tour is the Israeli capital. This trip is aimed at getting the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations on concluding a separate treaty unstuck. However, in the role of mediator, which Washington has taken upon itself, it holds a position which is far from impartial. This is shown by the fact that Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel is taking place after full agreement has been reached between him and the Israeli Prime Minister Begin, who visited Washington, on formulation of disputed articles in the treaty. Thus, as before, Washington is on the side of Tel Aviv. In particular, it agrees with the demands of the Israeli Government that the treaty should not include any kind of tangible proposals on the future of the Arab people of Palestine. For this reason above all else, all Washington's attempts to [present] the separate Egyptian-Israeli ideal--which is far from being born yet anyway--as a document capable of forming the basis of a Geneva conference for a Near East settlement, are in vain. These attempts are justly considered by the world public, including the Arab public, as maneuvers, with the aim of stifling the wave of protests against the deal.

Kurdyumov on Trip

ID081202 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Kurdyumov article in "Commentators Column" under the headline "'Shuttle' Again"]

[Text] Washington--President Carter of the United States is undertaking a hurried trip to the Near East in order to push Egypt into a separate deal with Israel. Commenting on this step, the U.S. press draws attention to the fact that the President is participating personally in shuttle diplomacy. The papers unanimously express the opinion that the results of the trip will largely depend on the nature of the new proposals to be put forward by Carter during his meeting with Prime Minister Begin and immediately approved by the Israeli Cabinet. The details of these proposals have not yet been made public. From press reports, it is only known that they are directly related to the fate of Palestinians on the Israeli occupied territory. Nevertheless, commentators here come to the conclusion that the United States, in the course of the current trip by the White House chief, is hoping for concessions from the president of Egypt.

According to the press, "the actions and statements of the White House in recent days give the distinct impression that the administration has decided to exert pressure on Anwar as-Sadat to make him sign a treaty now." Although reports from Cairo contain optimistic forecasts concerning the position of As-Sadat, who has prepared a ceremonial reception for the guest from across the ocean, many American observers express doubt as to whether Cairo can overcome the obstacles which, the papers write, have been "created by the hostile attitude of the Arab world" to the separate treaty with Israel and the fact that Jordan and Saudi Arabia, let alone the other Arab countries, reject the Camp David deal. One cannot fail to take into account, the Washington STAR says, that "the significance of As-Sadat's growing isolation in Arab circles is becoming painfully obvious."

The aim of Carter's trip is far from limited to the earliest possible signing of the separate Israeli-Egyptian treaty. The President's decision to set off for the Near East, accompanied by Defense Secretary Brown, who was quite recently conducting negotiations there, demonstrates the degree of the White House's concern over the rapidly changing situation in the area. In connection with the collapse of the pro-American shah regime in Iran, the United States figures, with the aid of Egypt and Israel, on strengthening its strategic positions. This, in fact, the observers conclude, is the main purpose of the summit shuttle diplomacy.

Treaty Gives U.S. Free Hand

LD082358 Moscow in Arabic to North Africa 1830 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program written by A. Timoshkin]

[Text] U.S. President Carter arrived in Cairo today for talks with President as-Sadat concerning the conclusion of the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty. President Carter is accompanied by Defense Minister Brown. Brzezinski, U.S. presidential adviser on national security, arrived in Cairo earlier.

Prior to his departure from Washington, President Carter said that in his capacity as a friend of Israel and Egypt he will do all he can to help them to conclude peace--a matter which will safeguard extremely important U.S. private interests and the interests of all world peoples, so he alleged. He added that should his mission of conciliation fail, it will indeed be a tragedy.

The talks between the Egyptian and U.S. presidents will take place for two purposes: First, a publicity purpose; the Egyptian, U.S. and Israeli information media have underlined the importance of Carter's tour and the U.S. proposals for the amendment of the separate treaty. The Egyptian prime minister has described the U.S. proposals as positive. His Israeli counterpart has described them as proposals which transform the treaty into an important document.

The official Egyptian propaganda tries to frighten the Arabs by claiming that should the treaty with Israel fail to be signed, future generations will not forgive this failure--as it puts it.

The second purpose, which is completely contrary to the first, is to cause armed provocations by the isolationists and their ally, Israel, in Lebanon; U.S. efforts to intensify the dispute between the two Yemeni states by urgently sending arms to the Yemen Arab Republic; U.S. dispatch of U.S. naval vessels to the gulf area, and U.S. intentions of supplying F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Through all these measures, the United States, Egypt and Israel are trying to force the Arabs into accepting the inevitability of the signing of the separate treaty which, as President Carter puts it, guarantees the interests of the United States--extremely important interests--in the Middle East; and not only U.S. interests, but also the interests of Israel since the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty will remove once and for all the biggest Arab state from the front of active struggle for the liquidation of the consequences of aggression and a radical solution to the Palestine question.

REUTER says that this will free Israel's hand since its leadership will then be able to concentrate its efforts against Syria and the Palestine resistance.

Thus the United States is not seeking the establishment of a peace compatible with the vital interests of all peoples, as President Carter alleges, but a peace--if it can be called peace--further complicating the situation and giving the U.S. imperialists a free hand to further rob the national wealth of the Arabs and to exploit them. The Israeli aggressor will also have new opportunities to annex the Palestinian and other Arab territories, thereby implementing the mythical plans of establishing a great Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The question is: If the Arabs agree to all this, will the future generations forgive them for it?

Arab Reaction

ID081828 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 8, TASS--The Arab Palestinian people are full of determination to issue a rebuff to the conspiracy of imperialism, Zionism and reaction that are seeking to impose on the Arabs capitulatory versions of a Middle East settlement, says the statement by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The efforts of the U.S. administration are aimed only at eliminating the Palestinian problem and at solving the Arab-Israeli conflict in the interests of Zionism.

The PLO Executive Committee emphasised the necessity to convene a new Arab summit conference to consider the obtaining situation and urged the population of the occupied territories to hold a general strike in token of protest against the attempts at speeding up an Egyptian-Israeli separate deal.

Cairo, March 8, TASS--The Egyptian leadership's striving to sign a peace treaty with Israel is fraught with dangerous consequences and does not meet the interests of establishing a genuine, just, all-embracing and lasting peace in the Middle East, writes the weekly AL-TAQADDUM, organ of the National Progressive (left) Party of Egypt (NPP).

The NPP called on the Government of Egypt to abandon the separate talks with Israel and reaffirm Egypt's commitments to Arab countries, commitments arising from the resolutions of the summit meeting of Arab heads of state and government, and to set up cooperation with Arab national-patriotic forces in the interests of achieving a just peace.

Damascus, March 8, TASS--If Egypt signs a treaty with Israel, the other Arab states must deprive it of financial aid and thereby place it in utter isolation, said Elias Freidj, the mayor of the Bethlehem (Western Bank of the Jordan). He emphasized that the U.S. President Carter's visit to the Middle East runs counter to national interests.

Rashid al-Shawa, the mayor of the city of Gaza, pointed out that President Carter's visit pursues the aim of expediting the conclusion of an Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The mayor said a lasting peace in the Middle East will not be achieved if the Palestinian problem is not sovled.

Kuwait, March 8, TASS--Sadun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of foreign affairs, in an interview with the newspaper AL-QBAS said that if Egypt's separate agreement with Israel is signed, the ministers of foreign affairs of Arab countries will gather for an emergency meeting to implement the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference on the transfer of the headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS) from Cairo, on suspension of Egypt's L.A.S. membership, and on the freezing of Arab states' relations with the A.R.E.

Arrival of U.S. Cruiser

LD082250 Moscow TASS in English 2120 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 8, TASS--The U.S. atomic-powered cruiser "Virginia" arrived at Alexandria port for a four-day visit. It is noteworthy that "Virginia" has called at the port at time when talks are beginning between the presidents of Egypt and the USA for final formalisation of an Egyptian-Israeli separate deal.

COMMENTARY, REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN

U.S. Base Becomes Fishing Port

LD081257 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran, 6 March TASS--A. Madani, defense minister in the Iranian Provisional Government, has appeared on Tehran television and announced that the naval base constructed by the Americans at Chah Bahar (Gulf of Oman) is to be refitted as a fishing port. This decision, the minister stressed, has been taken as a result of the fact that Iran is renouncing the role of American imperialism's gendarme in the Persian Gulf--a role foisted on it by the United States.

Akhmedzyanov Dispatch

LD081529 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 79 Morning Edition p4 LD

[Correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov dispatch: "A Call for Vigilance" carried in V. Petrusenko's digest of world news: "The Planet Today"]

[Text] The enemies of the Iranian revolution are stepping up their sallies in connection with the country's forthcoming referendum on the form of state and political power.

Not a night goes by in Tehran without agents of the shah's former secret police, SAVAK, set up and trained by the CIA, making attacks against people's militia posts or against revolutionary organizations. As our Tehran correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov reports, Ayatollah Talegani, a very close associate of Khomeyni, told journalists that between 7,000 and 8,000 armed SAVAK men, jointly with "CIA elements," are waiting a suitable moment to create disturbances in the city for the purpose of opening the way "for their masters" to interfere in the republic's affairs. "A real danger exists, and the people must be vigilant," Ayatollah Talegani warned. The newspaper AYANDEGAN writes that the counterrevolutionaries' efforts are patently aimed at wrecking the referendum. The Tehran press reports the suppression of sallies by counterrevolutionaries and gangsters in Mashhad, Esfahan, Tabriz and Abadan.

Rebuffing reaction's intrigues, the Iranian people are focussing their attention on normalizing the situation in all spheres of life. Oil extraction has been doubled and now amounts to 1.6 million barrels a day, which is giving the country the opportunity to resume oil exports. The Iranian public greeted with great satisfaction the decision by the executive organs of power to divest the country of the mediation of the Western oil companies consortium which for almost 25 years devoted itself to marketing Iranian oil. This decision, in the words of Dr Hasan Nazih, head of the Iranian National Petroleum Company, represents a secondary nationalization of the country's oil wealth.

Egyptian Credit Agreements Annulled

ID091132 Moscow TASS in English 1048 GMT 9 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Tehran, March 9, TASS--The Government of Iran has decided to annul all agreements on the granting of credits and loans to Egypt. As is known, the Egyptian leadership was very active in defending the shah's despotic regime both before and after his overthrow.

Latest Developments in Country

ID081533 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian 8 Mar 79 p 12 ID

[A. Stepanov article: "Iran: Maintaining Vigilance"--names in parentheses as transliterated]

[Text] The new authorities in Iran are continuing to implement measures to restore normal life in the country, organise the economy and eliminate counterrevolutionary elements. As officials point out, in 2-3 weeks Iran is to resume exporting oil and nearly 70 percent of production capacities in the country's enterprises have already been restored. Deputy Prime Minister Yazdi stressed that oil will not be supplied to Israel or South Africa, and revenue from its sale abroad will not be spent on weapons purchases. A representative of the Provisional Government headed by M. Bazargan reported that "trustees" have been appointed to major institutions and companies to be responsible for their management in the transition period, and monitor the purging of proshah elements.

Dozens of the shah's generals and active employees of the SAVAK secret police and a number of former embezzler ministers and members of the disbanded parliament are awaiting trial for crimes committed against the people. Some 140 senior armed forces officers have already been deprived of their command posts. Revolutionary courts are being created to deal with the shah's minions and are beginning to operate not only in the capital but in provincial administrative centers and other major cities.

A rally took place on 23 February in Tehran University stadium in which more than 100,000 people took part. Its initiator was the organization of "people's partisans." A program resolution was adopted at the rally. It contains, in particular, an appeal for the creation of people's councils to manage enterprises, institutions and military units. The participants in the rally greeted the workers at the Tabriz tractor plant, where such a council has already been elected. The resolution warns of the danger of reviving the administrative apparatus in its earlier form and calls for the dispersal of the old army, replacing it with "new armed forces from among those who participated actively in the people's movement." The document contains proposals for distributing all lands "usurped by the Pahlavi dynasty" among the poorest strata and annulling all peasants' debts to banks and government offices.

The participants in the rally called for the removal of all censorship on information organs and for full guarantees of the rights of national minorities. They stated that such acknowledged leaders of the anti-imperialist struggle as Ayatollah Khomeyni and Ayatollah Talegani enjoy their "respect and admiration." The resolution particularly stresses the need to maintain vigilance in the face of continuing intrigues by American imperialism.

Another rally took place in Tehran on the following day. It was convened on the initiative of another revolutionary organization--the Mujahidin Khalq. It approved a resolution with roughly similar content.

Meanwhile reaction is not dormant. As Tehran's ETTELAAT newspaper wrote on 24 February, Khomeyni's representative in Qahramanshahr (formerly Kermanshah) reported that the shah was preparing a coup for 17 February. Tremendous resources appropriated by the shah (up to 160 billion Iranian rials, or more than $2 billion), the newspaper writes, are being used to prepare a new conspiracy against the revolution: With the help of CIA "specialists" it is being coordinated by (Parviz Sabeti), an officer in the shah's secret police known for his cruelty, who has fled to Switzerland. Former SAVAK agents, ETTELAAT continues, are trying in every way to provoke confrontations in Iran itself between Islamic groupings and leftwing forces and to unleash civil war. In these conditions the statements about vigilance and support for the new power's anti-imperialist steps which are heard at the rallies and which appear in the pages of Iranian newspapers are particularly topical.

Oil Director on Production

ID081904 Moscow TASS in English 1822 GMT 8 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Tehran, March 8, TASS--Iran is faced with a task to bring the level of oil production in the country up to three million barrels a day, Hasan Nazih, managing director of the Iranian National Oil Company, said here. Before the commencement of the people's revolution in Iran and the oilmen's general strike connected with it, 6.5 million barrels of oil daily was produced at the country's oil fields. Out of the amount, Iran exported about six million barrels a day. At present the production of oil has already amounted to two million barrels a day. The Provisional Government of Iran repeatedly emphasized that for the purposes of conserving the reserves of this important raw material, the production of oil will not be more than 40-50 percent of the pre-revolution level.

Hasan Nazih said that as soon as the installation for the collection of natural gas at Big Boland attains its full capacity, Iran will resume deliveries of gas to its clients.

As the "Voice of the Iranian Revolution" radio reported, a certain part of the revenue from the sale of oil and gas is to be allocated monthly for reconstruction and development of Iran's economically backward areas.

Touching upon Iran's relationship with the Western oil companies' consortium which had virtually managed the production and marketing of Iranian oil, Hasan Nazih said: "In our eyes it is defunct." The Iranian National Oil Company prefers, according to him, to deal with its client companies and countries "on an individual basis." As for the agreements which the consortium had signed with the shah's regime, they will be broken off very soon. In conclusion the managing director of the Iranian National Oil Company emphasized that Iran will remain a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and will actively cooperate with it.

The radio also broadcast a speech by the influential Tehran Ayatollah Talegani who said that a special ministry will be set up soon with functions to combat corruption.

Speaking of Kurds who live in Iran, Talegani said they have the right to a language, culture and national customs of their own.

A government spokesman, Amir Entezam, announced here the closure of the helicopter flying training centre owned by the U.S. company "Bell."

Soviet-Iranian Gas Agreement

TA081815 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 5 March 79 TA

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, some time ago UPI carried a news item which distorted and inverted problems relating to the economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iran in the gas field. Our economic commentator, pointing to the distortion of facts by UPI, writes that this bourgeois news agency does not want to recognize the fact that countries can cooperate on the basis of equality to the benefit of both sides. Apparently the reason that UPI cannot comprehend this point is that this principle was never observed in Iran's economic relations with the Western countries.

In 1965, during talks between the Soviet Union and Iran on economic and technical cooperation, Iran seriously brought up the subject of sales of natural gas to the Soviet Union. The Soviet delegation in these talks frankly declared that it was not interested in purchasing gas from Iran because the Soviet Union has vast reserves of natural gas and its requirements can be fulfilled most adequately. However, since Iran was not able to utilise the gas or send it back underground, the Soviet Union was ready to help. In January 1966 the economic and technical agreement between the Soviet Union and Iran was signed.

In October 1970 Iran began exporting gas to the Soviet Union. So far Iran has sold approximately 70 billion cubic meters of gas to the Soviet Union.

It goes without saying that economic relations between the Soviet Union and Iran were always based on long-term agreements, equality, and reciprocal benefits.

The fact that the price of gas continues to increase and is now three times what is was at the beginning, while at the same time the price of Soviet machinery and industrial goods has remained almost unchanged, proves that the export of gas to the Soviet Union was profitable for Iran.

This economic and technical agreement between the Soviet Union and Iran is an example of good-neighborly trade relations on the basis of reciprocal benefits between two countries with different social systems. The Soviet Union is prepared, as stipulated in the economic and technical agreement between the Soviet Union and Iran, to develop its economic cooperation with its southern neighbor on the basis of reciprocal benefit and neighborly relations in the future also.

U.S. MIDDLE EAST PLANS 'PROVOCATIVE SHOW OF FORCE'

F-15's Offered to Saudi Arabia

ID081542 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 8 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Washington, March 8, TASS--The United States is stepping up its provocative "show of force" in the Middle East. As is reported by the UPI news agency with reference to circles close to the Pentagon, the U.S. Government offered to Saudi Arabia to station a detachment of F-15 fighter bombers in its territory. The news agency points out that those aircraft will enable Saudi Arabia to free its own air force for a direct role in the armed conflict between North and South Yemen.

Earlier the Pentagon issued an order to send the atomic-powered aircraft carrier Constellation based in the Philippines to the Persian Gulf area.

The "show of force" in the Middle East had already been carried out by Washington during the internal political crisis in Iran in token of U.S. support for the shah's regime. At that time U.S. warships had been sent to the Persian Gulf and a detachment of U.S. F-15 had arrived at military bases in Saudi Arabia.

Military Aid to YAR

LD081532 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Oleg (Blinov)]

[Text] The United States is ready to increase military assistance to North Yemen. An announcement to this effect was broadcast by CBS Television on Wednedsay. Quoting a high-ranking State Department spokesman, the CBS commentator stated that the United States viewed the conflict in the south of the Arabian Peninsula as a threat to its national interest. What can one say? The USA's national interest reaches a long way.

Is it not the case that the United States is simply trying to interfere in events taking place so far from America? Now, when as a result of intensive efforts by the Arab countries things are moving toward normalization in southern Arabia, the United States is clearly pouring oil on the flames. The dispatch of the American aircraft carrier Constellation to the shores of the Arabian Peninsula also presents a provocation.

Such American actions are directed against the interests of the Arab countries and hamper their efforts to regulate their relations by peaceful means.

INTER-ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE ENDS IN ABU DHABI

LD081636 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 8, TASS--The first inter-Arab conference on energy matters came to a close in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. It was attended by representatives of more than twenty Arab states as well as by the leaders of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and a number of other regional organisations.

The participants in the five-day conference considered present-day trends in energy policy as well as problems of the generation of the electric power in the Arab world. The final statement issued today also stresses that the conference decided to form at the OAPEC a permanent commission for energy and a special fund for the development of this branch of industry in Arab countries.

NATO NAVAL EXERCISES BEGIN IN MEDITERRANEAN

ID082154 Moscow TASS in English 2051 GMT 8 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Brussels, March 8, TASS--Naval exercises of "NATO Fire Brigade" began in the Mediterranean today. These are large-scale training operations which involve a squadron of combatant ships from among the navies of the USA, Britain, Italy, and Turkey. The exercises are to be held for four weeks in the central and eastern Mediterranean.

As the press points out, the aim of the exercises is, in particular, to practice combatant ships' cooperation with naval aviation. Squadrons of combat aircraft and helicopters are to participate in the exercises.

GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

ID071544 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 7 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Athens, March 7, TASS--The traditional relations between the peoples of Greece and the USSR are developing steadily of late due to the mutual desire of both countries to expand and strengthen bilateral relations. This was stated in an interview to a TASS correspondent by Yeoryios Rallis, foreign minister of Greece, in connection with the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Greek Republic which falls due on March 8. He noted also that there were now favourable prospects for further developing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Greek Government, the minister said, repeatedly declared its desire to develop relations with all countries, irrespective of their socio-political systems, and particularly the Soviet Union, with which we are linked by traditional relations of cooperation in all spheres of mutual interest.

In this light, Yeoryios Rallis stressed, we hope that the forthcoming visit of the Greek prime minister to the Soviet Union will be a landmark on the road to a further development of Greek-Soviet relations.

GREEK COMMUNIST YOUTH LEADER HAS TALKS IN MOSCOW

ID051926 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 5 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--Member of the Central Council of the Greek Communist Youth Kokinas, was received today at the USSR Committee of Youth Organisations. Discussed during the talks was the development of bilateral cooperation between the Soviet Young Communist League and the Communist Youth of Greece. Kokinas described preparations for the Second Congress of the Communist Youth of Greece and the Greek youth's broad campaign of solidarity with the struggle of the people and youth of Vietnam against the Chinese aggression.

BRIEFS

MALTSEV RECEIVES CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR--Moscow, March 2, TASS--Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Maltsev today received the ambassador of Cyprus to the USSR, Anghelos Anghelides, in connection with the coming ceremony of handing in his credentials. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 2156 GMT 2 Mar 79 ID]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

NIGERIA REFUSES TO REFUEL SOUTH AFRICAN VESSEL

LD082228 Moscow TASS in English 2052 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Lagos, March 8, TASS--A South African tanker which called at the Nigerian port [words indistinct] for refuelling was arrested. The authorities detained the ship on the grounds that the sale of oil to the racist (?regime of) Pretoria is banned in the country. According to a report of the newspaper DAILY TIMES, during the search on board the ship it turned out that the ship's crew are armed. The Nigerian authorities set up a special committee for an inquiry into the incident.

As is known, the Republic of South Africa and Israel had received oil from Iran. The new Iranian Government ceased the delivery of oil to those two countries. What happened at Port Brass suggests the thought that Israel and the Republic of South Africa are [words indistinct] to do anything to get oil.

TASS REPORTS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA

LD081126 Moscow TASS in English 1025 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["Cooperation Between China and the South African Republic Broadening"--TASS headline]

[Text] Maputo, March 8, TASS--While declaring by word of mouth in support of the liberation struggle of the peoples of South Africa, China is in fact actively cooperating with the racialist regime of the South African Republic. This is seen from the facts cited in the South African press. According to the SUNDAY TIMES, the Chinese Government is holding talks with a number of South African companies. Beijing offered the "Charter Consolidated", "Rio Tinto Zinc" and "Consolidated Goldfields" together with some Western companies to draw up and then implement a project for the development of various natural deposits in China. They are to produce cobalt, zinc, copper and other minerals in Shanxi, Gansu and Yunnan and other provinces. Representatives of the companies concerned have already visited China.

China's ruling circles are trying to conceal their ties with the repressive regime in the South African Republic, but reports reaching the press indicate that cooperation between the two countries is of considerable scale. It was already ten years ago that Beijing and Pretoria signed in Hong Kong a secret long-term trade agreement. In recent years, trade between them grows by 12 million dollars yearly. The South African racialists supply China with chromium, nickel and other important materials for the manufacture of various types of weapons as well as with diamonds and gold, which China resells then in black markets of the Asian countries. In its turn, Beijing supplies the racialists with miscellaneous goods, in the first place with oil indispensable for the military machinery of the racialist regime. To keep secret its ties with the South African Republic, China makes its supplies via Hong Kong, which it has long turned into its trans-shipment.

WARSHIPS TO VISIT MAURITIUS DURING MARCH

LD081253 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 79 P 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Visit by Soviet Warships"]

[Text] In accordance with an agreement reached between the governments of Mauritius and the USSR, a detachment of Soviet warships comprising the cruiser Vladivostok, a patrol ship and a military tanker will pay an official friendly visit to Port Louis this March.

ZAPU OFFICIAL CONDEMNS RHODESIAN ELECTIONS FARCE

LD081836 Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 8, TASS--The anti-popular policy of the racist authorities has led Rhodesia into a deadlock, said U. Mazarurwa, secretary for information of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). Although the racists spend daily about two million dollars for the conduct of the criminal war against the country's African population, no millions-worth sums of money can save the rotten regime any longer from collapse.

The clique of Smith, in an attempt to delude the world public and get additional military and financial support from its Western patrons, is resorting to various strategems and machinations. It is expressly with this end in view that a political farce--so-called "elections"--is scheduled for April 20. At the same time the Rhodesian military make bandit attacks on neighboring independent states and is intensifying cruel terror and reprisals against the peaceful African population of Zimbabwe.

The patriots who are waging an armed struggle against the racist dominance in Rhodesia rejected both the notorious agreement on "internal settlement" and the planned "elections" fraudulent undertaking. This is the expression of our principled stand the aim of which is to achieve genuine freedom and independence of Zimbabwe, U. Muzarurwa pointed out. We are countering all the manoeuvring of the racists by an intensification of the struggle.

'REVOLUTIONARY TRANSFORMATIONS' TAKING PLACE IN ERITREA

LD091000 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 9 Mar 79 LD

["Eritrea: Life Is Being Normalised"--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 9, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Pichugin reports: Life in the Ethiopian province of Eritrea is coming back to normal. Factories and artisans' workshops are being reopened in big cities and peasant associations--new government bodies--are being set up in rural localities. Soldiers of the Revolutionary Army and members of the People's Militia are taking an active part in the restoration of the war-ravaged national economy.

Much attention is being given to political work among the masses. Servicemen, activists of public organizations, and volunteers who arrived in Eritrea from other provinces explain to the population the aims and tasks of the Ethiopian revolution and the nation-wide revolutionary development campaign, now under way, and expose the machinations of imperialism and reaction which seek with the help of the secessionist movement to divide Ethiopia and to deprive its people of their revolutionary gains. This work is yielding concrete results. Thousands of people in town and countryside who were misled by hostile propaganda are now returning to their homes and begin building a new peaceful life. Thus the population of the town of Agordat, the former stronghold of the secessionists, from which practically all residents were forcibly driven away, increased to three thousand in recent months. Radical revolutionary transformations are taking place in the villages. On the basis of peasant associations, collective land-tilling associations, agricultural co-operatives and state farms are being established. The state allocates big funds for them and supplies them with seed and modern machinery.

The revolutionary government's measures to normalise life in Eritrea are supported by all Ethiopian working people. Relief funds are being collected throughout the country for the Eritrean population which suffered from the secessionists' actions. Columns of trucks with food supplies and building materials are going to Eritrea.

SOUTH ASIA

KOSYGIN ARRIVES IN DELHI FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA

Stops Over in Tashkent

LD081244 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 8, TASS--Aleksey Kosygin, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has made a stop-over in Tashkent (the capital of Uzbekistan) en route to India.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1200 GMT on 8 March repeats the TASS report and adds the following: "He was met at the airport by Rashidov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, Usmankhodzhayev, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, Khudayberdyyev, chairman of the Council of the Ministers of the republic, and other officials.

"Comrade Kosygin is accompanied by Ashimov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee of Economic Relations, Maltsev and Kuzmin, first deputy ministers of the USSR, Inozemtsev, deputy chairman of the Gosplan of the USSR and others."]

Meets Leading Uzbek Workers

LD081746 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who stopped over in Tashkent today on his way to India, met leading workers of the Uzbek SSR.

Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, spoke about the work of the republican party organization in fulfilling the decisions of the July and November 1978 plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan.

Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin warmly congratulated the republican leaders and all the working people on the award of the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee, to the Uzbek SSR and passed on greetings and best wishes from Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Aleksey Kosygin dwelt on the basic tasks of fulfilling the decisions of the 25th party congress.

Comrade Kosygin looked over new housing areas in the republican capital, visited the Tashkent branch of the Central Vladimir Ilich Lenin Museum, inspected underground railway stations, laid flowers at the Lenin monument in the city's central square and a wreath at the eternal flame by the grave of the unknown soldier, and planted a tree in the Alleya Paradov.

Leaves Tashkent for Delhi

LD090715 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 9 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tashkent, March 9, TASS--Aleksey Kosygin, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who stopped over in the capital of Uzbekistan on his way to India, left here for Delhi this morning.

Aleksey Kosygin is going to India for an official friendly visit.

Desai Welcomes Kosygin in Delhi

LD091110 Moscow TASS in English 1037 GMT 9 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 9, TASS--(TASS special correspondent)--The capital of friendly India has accorded a warm welcome to Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who arrived for an official friendly visit today at the invitation of the Indian Government.

In Palam airport decked with the national flags of the USSR and India, the head of the Soviet Government was welcomed by Indian Prime Minister M. Desai, Minister of External Affairs A.B. Vajpayee, Minister of State for External Affairs S. Kundu, Mayor of Delhi R.K. Gupta, India's Ambassador to the USSR I.K. Gujral and USSR Ambassador to India Yu.M. Vorontsov.

In keeping with the Indian tradition, the distinguished guest was presented at the ramp with a garland of flowers. A guard of honour was lined up in the airfield. Commander of the guard of honour made a report to Aleksey Kosygin. The band struck the national anthems of the USSR and India.

Then, members of the Indian Cabinet, commanders of the arms of the service and heads of diplomatic representations accredited in Delhi were introduced to Aleksey Kosygin.

In his brief speech in the airport, Aleksey Kosygin said that the visit will give an opportunity to discuss many issues--international ones, relations between the USSR and India in the political, economic and other fields.

Our countries have an advantage. There are no differences between India and the Soviet Union. Of course, it is very easy to negotiate when there are no differences. At the same time, very much unites us. The USSR and India are united together above all on the question of peace. We shall support all those on this planet who champion peace.

From the airport, Aleksey Kosygin and Morarji Desai accompanied with an escort of honour of motorcyclists went to the residence assigned to the distinguished guest. They were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants of Delhi in the streets and squares of the Indian capital decked with the national flags of the two friendly countries.

TASS Scores AFP Report

LD082236 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1732 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["'Emotion' of AFP"--TASS headline]

[Text] Paris, 8 March, TASS--AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE has reported Aleksey Kosygin's departure for India in a brief note. The report is accompanied by the following assertion: "It is believed in Moscow that Mr Kosygin's visit to India will permit the Soviet Union to use the Indian public's emotion in connection with China's militant stand to its benefit."

The author of the note bashfully describes as a "militant stand" China's armed incursion into Vietnamese territory in the wake of the declaration of Chinese territorial claims against virtually all China's neighbors, as well as earlier provocations by Beijing on its borders with India and the Soviet Union. The anonymous "it is believed in Moscow" evidently conceals the author's own "emotion" regarding the condemnation of Beijing hegemonism all over the world, including in France itself.

Vajpayee Interviewed on Visit

LD090838 Moscow TASS in English 0829 GMT 9 Mar 79 LD

["Statement by A.B. Vajpayee in Interview"--TASS headline]

[Text] Delhi, March 9, TASS--The visit of Aleksey Kosygin, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to India opens new prospects for further strengthening and developing Indian-Soviet relations, Indian Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in an interview with Soviet newsmen.

This visit, the minister stressed, is another vivid evidence of the mutual striving of the governments of the two countries to continue periodic consultations at the top level, which have already become a tradition. The mutually beneficial partnership between India and the Soviet Union has stood the test of the times and been enriched with full mutual understanding.

The present close and all-round ties between the two countries are characterised by special cordiality, A.B. Vajpayee pointed out. We cannot but remember, he added, that at a time when other countries refused to help India, it was only the USSR, which expressed a profound understanding of the tasks facing us and together with us embarked on the road of cooperation in such key branches of economy as the steel, engineering and heavy industries.

Commentary Lauds USSR-Indian Cooperation

OW081650 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1030 GMT 8 Mar 79 OW

[(Shetinkov) commentary]

[Excerpts] Brezhnev, head of state of the Soviet Union, once pointed out: The aim of India's policy is also that of Soviet policy--opposing colonialism, imperialist wars, strengthening peace and improving the international situation. The 1971 Soviet-Indian Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation is the cornerstone of relations between the two countries. The principles of sovereignty, equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, which are affirmed in this treaty, are good norms for countries with different social systems to follow in peacefully coexisting with one another.

The Soviet Union and India cooperate extensively in the economic, scientific, technological and cultural spheres. This cooperation involves India's heavy industry, power, machinebuilding, pharmaceutical industry and other sectors. In the past few months alone, the Soviet Union and India have signed long-term agreements on building a number of large-scale industrial projects.

The Soviet people treasure their friendship with the great Indian people. The Soviet people hope that the forthcoming visit to India by Kosygin, head of government of the Soviet Union, will further strengthen the all-round relations between the Soviet Union and India.

NATIONALIST PARTY WINS BANGLADESH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

LD081120 Moscow TASS in English 1035 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Dacca, March 8, TASS--The Nationalist Party, which was recently formed by President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh, won 207 seats in the elections to the National Assembly--the 300 member one-chamber parliament. The biggest opposition party, the Awami League, won 39 seats. The other seats went to smaller opposition parties and independent candidates. The general parliamentary elections were held in Bangladesh on February 18. But for a number of reasons voting was held for the second time in three constituencies. The Central Electoral Committee announced the final results of the elections on Wednesday evening.

COMMENTARY HAILS BANGLADESH COMMUNIST PARTY ANNIVERSARY

BK081450 Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh 1300 GMT 6 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Writing on the 31st anniversary of the Bangladesh Communist Party, commentator Vladimir Puchkov says: Before 1971 the Bangladesh Communist Party was forced to work underground. The Bangladesh Communists did not lose their party workers despite the reign of terror and brutalities unleashed by the authorities. By establishing deep roots among the people they gained great experience in their struggle to serve the basic interests of the people.

The party played an active role in the 1971 war of liberation. After independence it became a recognized party and occupied a leading position among the patriotic forces working for the progressive development of Bangladesh. The slogan of the Bangladesh Communist Party is that it is necessary to further forge the unity of all leftist and democratic forces in the country to solve the urgent problems of the nation and the people. This slogan is very popular in Bangladesh. It has gained special significance today when as a result of the general election in Bangladesh a new political force has emerged.

Bangladesh Communists are emphatically stating that the program of increased agricultural production, industrialization of the nation and self-reliance can be implemented only through greater participation by the people. Respect for the Bangladesh Communist Party is also not lacking in the foreign countries. It has always expressed its view in favor of proletarian internationalism, the principles of peace, democracy and socialism and solidarity among communist parties throughout the world. The Bangladesh Communist Party is proud of its friendly relations with fraternal parties in other countries and gains greater confidence and strength for the correctness of its deeds as a result of their cooperation.

The people of the Soviet Union greet the Bangladesh Communists on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the party and wishing them success in their difficult struggle to achieve a brighter future for their motherland.

BRIEFS

USSR-INDIAN OIL EXPLORATION--Soviet-Indian contacts in the field of prospecting for and extracting oil and natural gas are expanding. Soviet and Indian specialists have determined the location of geological reserves of these valuable materials in the underground depths of India and mapped out the main directions of prospecting work. Joint cooperation has yielded considerable results. As the USSR Ministry of the Oil Industry reported to TASS, 44 oil and gas deposits have been opened in India with Soviet assistance, 24 of which have been commissioned. These account for almost half of the liquid fuel obtained in the republic. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD]

SRV OFFICIAL IN MANILA ISSUES STATEMENT ON PRC WITHDRAWAL

LD081208 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Manila, March 8, TASS--There are no signs that China is really withdrawing its troops from Vietnam. A statement to this effect was today made by SRV Vice Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son, who is currently attending the 35th session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Addressing a press conference here, he pointed out that Vietnam will allow China to withdraw its troops, if during their withdrawal they do not take any further military action. But, Hoang Bich Son pointed out, China's actions are in conflict with its own statements. He rejected as inconsistent the allegations by the Chinese side that fresh military reinforcements are necessary for the protection of troops during their withdrawal from Vietnam's territory. If the Chinese continue sending reinforcements and expanding their military operations in Vietnam, there will be no talks, the Vietnamese representative stressed.

PRAVDA REVIEWS SOVIET BOOK ON AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY

LD040734 Moscow TASS in English 0723 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

["PRAVDA on a Book by Soviet Researchers"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 4, TASS--PRAVDA carries a review of the book "Australia in International Relations of the 20th Century" by A. Martynov and C. Rusakov. The publication of the book is a reflection of the growing interest in Australia's foreign policy, PRAVDA points out. The book convincingly shows, as the review points out among other things, how unprincipled reorientation led Australia in the fifties-sixties onto the wrong path of bellicose anti-communist policies, drew it into a cold war against the USSR and other socialist countries, into the bloc strategy of U.S. imperialism in the Asian-Pacific region and as a result into the U.S. armed adventure in Vietnam.

A more realistic policy of Australia's Labour Government in 1972-1975, PRAVDA goes on to write, also gave an impetus to the development of Soviet-Australian relations, which was noted with satisfaction by the public in both countries. The authors devoted to this question a special section giving in particular an analysis of the agreements and accords reached during the stay in power of the government of G. Whitlam.

History shows, the newspaper writes, that Australia's international prestige was the greatest at a time when it was more involved in the policy of detente and goodneighbourliness.

INDOCHINA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PRC AGGRESSION AGAINST SRV

PRC Troop Withdrawal, Crimes

LD081446 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 8, TASS--Vietnam radio reports that after the Beijing statement on the pull back of the Chinese troops, the interventionists have withdrawn only from some areas, but the situation remains serious on the whole.

The report goes on to say that while withdrawing the Chinese interventionists are committing outrages and crimes against the local Vietnamese population, destroying economic and cultural facilities. Looting has assumed a large scale.

The present situation makes it necessary that the Vietnamese people to redouble its vigilance. Vietnam does not intend to hamper the withdrawal of invaders' troops, but it will not tolerate provacations from the Chinese military. The SRV Government demands full and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressor troops outside the historically formed Vietnamese-Chinese border. Only after this condition is fulfilled, Vietnam is ready to start talks at the level of deputy foreign ministers.

After the statement by the Beijing ruling circles that the withdrawal of all the Chinese troops from Vietnam would start on March 5, hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers are still remaining in their positions,without moving from their place, writes today the newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

The artillery of the aggressors continues shelling many areas in Lang Son, Cao Bang and Hoang Lien Son provinces. The Beijing invaders are perpetrating numerous crimes against the Vietnamese people, they are launching attacks in many areas of Than Thui district of Ha Tuen Province.

The clique of the Chinese aggressors was forced to declare the withdrawal of its troops, as they have suffered crushing retaliatory blows and sustained heavy losses.

But Beijing, the newspaper goes on to write, is far from giving up its perfidious designs and strives to capture a part of Vietnam's territory. At the same time, the Chinese aggressors are trying to deceive public, which condemns the criminal aggression and demands immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnam.

Our army and our people, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN points out in conclusion, preserves high vigilance. We again declare: If China's ruling circles declaring the withdrawal of their troops continue using their army for perpetrating crimes, we are determined to give a rebuff to them. Vietnam's army and people will most resolutely use their sacred right to self-defence, they will fight against the brazen aggression.

VNA on PRC's Attacks

LD090822 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

["Chinese Aggressors' Crimes"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 8, TASS--As the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports, the Chinese aggressors destroy material values and property of the Vietnamese in the country's border areas which they captured.

The invaders engaged in marauding in the populated locality of Chapa and in the area of apatite mines in Hoang Lien Son Province. They raided mineworkers' settlements, plundering and killing local residents. The Vietnamese Regional Armed Forces dealt a number of strikes at the invaders and inflicted heavy losses on them.

In Cao Bang Province, Chinese troops launched an attack on areas situation to the west of the administrative centre of the province. By artillery fire they destroyed a hospital in Hoa Ang and a large number of houses in Thong Nong.

In Lang Son Province Chinese troops yesterday for a whole hour fired on the outskirts of the provincial centre and the city of Loc Binh which is further south. Chinese soldiers not only mined roads but also planted explosives in dwelling houses.

CAMBODIA'S ROS SAMAY VIEWS REGIONAL, DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

ID090955 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian 2 Mar 79 pp 10-11 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Tavrovskiy interview: "Ros Samay: The Difficulties Will Be Overcome!"]

[Text] A delegation of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] was in the Soviet Union from 16 through 24 February. NOVOYE VREMYA correspondent Yu. Tavrovskiy met with Ros Samay, head of the delegation and general secretary of the KNUFNS Central Committee, and asked him to answer some questions.

[Question] What problems are the people's power having to face in the early stages?

[Answer] As you know, the clique of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, those lackeys of the Beijing hegemonists, has suffered complete defeat in our country. But during the 3 years and 8 months of its dominance, it inflicted colossal damage on industry, agriculture, the people's education system, health care--in a word, on all economic and cultural life in Kampuchea. Floods and typhoons frequently ravage Kampuchea, like other Southeast Asian countries. They cause countless sufferings; all the same, the elements rage for a month or two and then people can pull themselves around and put their economy in order. The rule of the pro-Beijing regime was many times more destructive than any typhoon or flood. It was a real deluge, lasting nearly 4 years.

Devastation holds sway in our country now. The people are experiencing tremendous difficulties and deprivations. We have no agricultural implements, household utensils, medicine, not even paper and pens for schoolchildren. The problem of qualified specialists is very acute--they were among the first to be killed by Pol Pot's butchers. The Revolutionary Government is striving to mobilize the entire people to strengthen public security, restore normal economic life and build a socialist society in the country. But above all we must help to reunite families and supply the population with basic necessities.

How does Kampuchea plan to resolve these and many other problems? Of course, above all we are counting on our own efforts, on the country's natural resources and on the Kampuchean people's industriousness. But we are also relying on support and assistance from fraternal socialist countries and on the solidarity of peoples throughout the world who are not indifferent to the sufferings of our exhausted people. We are confident that the Kampuchean people, under the leadership of the KNUFNS and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council, will be able to resolve all these problems successfully.

[Question] How do you assess the Kampuchean-Vietnamese treaty which was signed the other day?

[Answer] The visit to Phnom Penh by a Vietnamese Government delegation headed by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and the treaty on peace, friendship and cooperation signed during the visit continue the age-old tradition of solidarity between our neighboring countries, between fraternal peoples. This treaty is based on common interests in struggling against international reaction and imperialism and defending the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea and Vietnam. I wish to note that Kampuchean patriots have overcome the many difficulties and trails which have fallen to their lot thanks to combat solidarity with the Vietnamese people. The time had come to enshrine these relations in the form of an international treaty. This was done in Phnom Penh on 18 February.

[Question] Is there a connection between Beijing's attempts to establish hegemony over Kampuchea and the aggression against Vietnam?

[Answer] Yes, of course. The attempt to foist the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary puppet regime on the Kampuchean people and the attack on Socialist Vietnam are links in a single chain. The Beijing leaders want to establish domination in Asia, primarily in Indochina and Southeast Asia. The aggression against Vietnam is aimed not only at creating difficulties in socialist building in that country but also at giving assistance to the remnants of Pol Pot's gang, who are now being eliminated in the Kampuchean jungles.

Kampuchea's position with respect to the Chinese aggression is clear: It was set out in the People's Revolutionary Council statement. My country condemns the Beijing reactionaries and declares that the Kampuchean people will always take Vietnam's side and give it every possible assistance in rebuffing the aggression of the great-power hegemonists.

[Question] What is Kampuchea's policy with respect to the countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN]?

[Answer] Kampuchea's foreign policy line is aimed at establishing relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries, based on the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as noninterference in each other's internal affairs. We also follow this course with respect to Thailand and other ASEAN countries. We are prepared to make the necessary contribution to create an atmosphere of peace, security, stability and equal cooperation in Southeast Asia.

[Question] What do you have to say about the fate of the Chinese military "advisers" who were in Kampuchea?

[Answer] The Chinese military "advisers," together with Pol Pot's butchers, played the most direct part in destroying the Kampuchean people and in carrying out provocations against neighboring countries. They shared the fate of the pro-Beijing puppet regime whose prop they were. Many of them fled, and many were captured.

[Question] Where are Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan and their closest assistants now?

[Answer] Some have fled to China, some have been captured, some are still in hiding.

[Question] What do you think about the behavior of Norodom Sihanouk? What is the cause of the inconsistency in his statements?

[Answer] Sihanouk himself admits that for nearly 4 years he was held a virtual prisoner by Pol Pot and Ieng Sary. How can he make a correct assessment of the real state of affairs in Kampuchea and the rapidly changing situation? I regard this as one of the reasons for the contradictory and illogical nature of Sihanouk's statements. But there is another reason. Sihanouk is not free in his judgements and actions. Therefore it is not worth attaching great significance to his actions and words.

[Question] What is your attitude to reports being disseminated in Beijing and in the West that the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council lacks effective control over the country's territory?

[Answer] The Beijing hegemonists cannot reconcile themselves to their heavy and shameful defeat in Kampuchea. To justify their attempts to interfere in our country's affairs, they are spreading rumors now about the capture of a city, now about establishing control over whole regions of Kampuchea. I resolutely repudiate these rumors. Our military subunits, with the support of the population, are eliminating the sorry remnants of Pol Pot's cutthroats--those who did not wish to take advantage of the people's mercy.

I would also like to mention the other purpose of this slanderous campaign. Its initiators are trying to create the false impression that the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council does not control all the country's territory so as to postpone the recognition of the People's Republic of Kampuchea by many world states. In fact the People's Revolutionary Council is the sole legitimate government of Kampuchea, exercising effective control over all the country's territory and enjoying the support of the whole population.

[Question] Reports have appeared in the press on the use of Thailand's territory to ship Chinese weapons to the remnants of Pol Pot's detachments. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] The Thai Government has made a statement that it will not allow its territory to be used for supplying weapons to the remnants of the fallen Pol Pot regime. We received this statement with satisfaction. At the same time it is known to us that the Chinese authorities are trying to make use of the Huaqiao in Thailand to smuggle weapons to Pol Pot's bandits.

In conclusion Ros Samay said:

I wish to express gratitude to the editorial office of NOVOYE VREMYA for the opportunity to express the viewpoint of the new Kampuchea on certain questions of importance for us. I also wish to call on the public in countries where the magazine is available to develop still more widely the movement for solidarity with the Kampuchean people, who are fighting against the dark intrigues of the Beijing hegemonists and are seeking to bring about the rebirth of their beloved motherland--Kampuchea.

CAMBODIAN LEADER MAKES STATEMENT ON RECEIVING LAO ENVOY

LD090812 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 8, TASS--Heng Samrin, chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, received there Khamphan Vilachit, the ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos to Kampuchea, who presented his credentials.

When accepting the credentials, Heng Samrin stated that the Kampuchean people attentively follow the concentration of many Chinese divisions along the border with Laos.

The People's Revolutionary Council and the entire people of Kampuchea, he emphasized, resolutely condemn the preparations of the Chinese authorities for an aggressive war against Laos. Those actions expose the Chinese rulers' great-power and hegemonistic plan aimed at subjugating Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam and other countries of Southeast Asia and at undermining the solidarity and friendship among the three peoples and countries of Indochina.

Heng Samrin's statement points out that China is contemplating using Laos as a springboard for an attack on Socialist Vietnam from the west and in an attempt to give support to the remains of the forces of the Pol Pot regime overthrown by the Kampuchean people.

LIFE BEING RESTORED TO NORMAL IN CAMBODIA

LD021646 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0950 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, 2 March--The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea and the local government bodies have been making great efforts to eliminate the consequences of the inhuman policy of the pro-Beijing Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. The program of people's rule for the normalization of life and restoration of the economy is being successfully implemented with the wide participation of the working people. Reports have been coming in from every corner of the country about the resettlement of people--returning to their native villages--about the provision of medical assistance, distribution of food and necessities, and about the work of commissions dealing with the resumption of work in enterprises, institutions and consumer services.

In the places where the first tasks linked with the resettlement of the population have already been solved, the people's committees have proceeded to the next stage in the normalization of life. For instance, in the rural administrative center of Romeas in Kampot Province a school has opened. It now provides tuition for 360 pupils. As head of the school Nguon Bien has said, the provincial people's committee has provided for schooling aids. Naturally, there are still difficulties: There are no syllabuses, textbooks or writing books. And the main thing is that there is a lack of teachers. Three teachers including the headmaster are working in the school. They all fled from concentration camp in 1977 and took part in the national liberation movement. The first lesson they gave was: "The People's Republic of Kampuchea--our homeland."

Signs of a new life can also be seen in other parts of the country. Municipal hospitals have begun working in many provincial centers and medical stations have been set up in the rural areas.

The formation of a regular army and of self-defense detachments continues. Their task is to insure law and order and to protect the population from robbery by the remnants of the Pol Pot gangs.

LAOS WELCOMES SOVIET STATEMENT ON PRC TROOPS

LD062320 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1757 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD

["Threat to the Independence of Laos"--TASS headline]

[Excerpt] Vientiane, March 6--The Lao public has welcomed with great satisfaction the statement by the Soviet Government which draws attention to the danger of the concentration of Chinese troops on the border with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the threat of Chinese intervention in that country. All the central Lao papers that have published the Soviet Government's statement have stressed that it is well timed and aimed at defending the independence and sovereignty of Laos.

LAO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON PRC THREAT CITED

LD071532 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Vientiane, March 7, TASS--In the recent years, particularly after China unleashed a large-scale war of aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, sent its regular troops to the borders of Laos, launched a series of military exercises there, relations between Laos and China worsened considerably. This is said in a statement circulated here by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic concerning China's threat to Laos. The Chinese side threatened security and public order to Laos, engaged in anti-government activity, grossly interfered in the internal affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Being a small country with a population of slightly over three million, Laos cannot threaten China. But the Laotian people, the document says, will never capitulate and will not allow anyone to violate independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country that was won in the years of difficult and selfless struggle. The responsibility for the fact that relations between Laos and China are constantly worsening rests fully on the Chinese side.

If China really wishes to preserve and strengthen solidarity between the two countries, it must confirm its intentions by practical steps: It must end immediately concentration of its troops on its border with Laos and actions threatening independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos, must end interference in the internal affairs in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the statement says.

LAO PARTY STATEMENT STRESSES SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM

LD081706 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Vientiane, March 8, TASS--The Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos issued a statement expressing full support for the address by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam to the compatriots and servicemen of the country in connection with the Chinese aggression. Under all circumstances, the statement emphasizes, the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos and the Laotian people and members of all its nationalities will stand side by side with the Communist Party and the fraternal people of Vietnam. They are resolved to uphold together the great Laotian-Vietnamese solidarity, defend our countries, give help to each other, and preserve the purity of the invincible teaching of Marxism-Leninism.

BRIEFS

SOVIET-VIETNAMESE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION--It has been 20 years since the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and Vietnam was signed. The USSR is helping to reestablish about 245 industrial enterprises, education establishments and others. A research center has been built in Hanoi from a plan by the Soviet Academy of Science, which is a base for work in physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. Plans for cooperation between organizations of the two countries have been worked out up to 1980. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD]

JAPANESE MILITARISTS' ARMS SPENDING PRESSURE DANGEROUS

LD081523 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[V. Vinogradov article: "A Dangerous Policy"]

[Text] The closer we come to 1 April--the start of the next fiscal year in Japan--the more persistently militarist circles try to obtain the ratification of full military appropriations. The draft state budget for 1979 sets them at more than 2 trillion yen. But the Japanese Defense Agency's plans provide for obtaining 12.6 trillion yen to implement the fifth 5-year program for strengthening Japan's Armed Forces, planned for 1980-1984. The growth in the appetites of the Japanese Defense Agency leaders is indicated by the fact that at the four previous programs about 9 trillion yen was spent. All these astronomical sums have been directed toward building up the might of the "Self-Defense Forces," which were created in defiance of Japan's peaceful constitution. In the assessment of the foreign press, the Japanese Army, which is more than 260,000 strong, is one of the armies with the greatest combat capability in Asia. Nonetheless, the advocates of further militarization are putting forward new plans. The Japanese Defense Agency has already begun to create its first squadron of submarines, to deploy squadrons of F-15 aircraft purchased from the United States, and to reequip the ground forces with sophisticated types of weapons.

Industrial circles which grow rich on military deliveries are promoting the further activation of the militarist race. Weapons manufacturers are demanding with increasing insistence that the bulk of the military hardware being placed at the army's disposal should not be bought abroad, but should be produced, so to speak, "on the spot." With this aim the Defense Production Committee of the country's Federation of Economic Organizations has taken on the task of preparing, by next June, a concrete plan for the accelerated development of the military industry and submitting it to the government for ratification.

One cannot fail to see that the United States has recently been increasingly insistent in urging Japan to increase its military potential. Here Pentagon strategists state openly that they intend to use the Japanese Army as their main ally in Asia, an ally which could play an active part in American plans for establishing control of the Pacific and in supporting pro-American regimes in that region. It is from this angle that we must examine the so-called "basic principles of Japanese-American cooperation in the military sphere" elaborated by the two countries' military departments. This document, approved by Tokyo at the end of last year, provides for joint operations by the armed forces of Japan and the United States in the event of an "emergency."

It must be noted that the militarist activity taking place in Japan is accompanied by a notable anti-Soviet ballyhoo, which is being fanned by certain circles. Thus in the opinion of the Self-Defense Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, published by the TOKYO SHIMBUN newspaper, the main military "threat" to Japan now comes "from the north," that is, from the direction of the USSR. It is hardly necessary to say that such statements, wherever they originate, scarcely promote the fruitful development of good-neighborly relations between our countries. The same goes for the series of major military maneuvers ostentatiously carried out by the Japanese Army on Hokkaido Island.

The democratic public in Japan is opposed to the militarist course, which is fraught with dangerous consequences for the country. It resolutely demands that the ruling circles implement a policy in accordance with the interests of insuring peace and further international detente.

JAPAN 'CONNIVING' WITH PRC ON VIETNAM AGGRESSION

OW281207 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 7 Mar 79 OW

[Anatolyev commentary]

[Text] As has already been reported, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Polyanskiy recently handed to Deputy Foreign Minister Takeshima a Soviet Government reply to an appeal made by the Japanese Government to the USSR concerning the Indochina situation. The Japanese Government appeal indicated concern about the grave situation in Indochina. At the same time, the Japanese Government, disregarding indisputable facts well known in Japan, considered it unnecessary to make a clear-cut demand to China that it halt its invasion of Vietnam. While urging the USSR to exercise self-restraint, the appeal merely said that Japan had advised China to resolve the dispute by peaceful means.

Under present circumstances, however, is it fair for anyone to make the same appeal to both the aggressor and the victim of the aggression? Is it fair to consider the aggressor and victim of the aggression in the same light?

The Chinese invasion of Vietnam has already entered its third week. During this period, the world has witnessed unprincipled behavior by the Chinese aggressors who have not hesitated to plunder and murder civilian residents, and who have driven hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops to their deaths in order to achieve their hegemonist objectives. Through their robber-like attack on Vietnam, the Beijing leaders have fully exposed the aggressive nature of their chauvinist, hegemonist policy. Today, everyone considers this policy the gravest threat to world peace. Therefore, it is quite natural for people to wonder why Beijing's aggression has become so brazen. Perhaps some people are conniving in this regard. Let us recall some recent events.

The so-called Japan-China peace and friendship treaty became effective last fall. During that period, Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, who concurrently holds the post of chief of the General Staff of the Chinese Armed Forces, denounced Vietnam while visiting Japan. Deng Xiaoping, visiting the United States and revisiting Japan from late January through early February, declared that Vietnam should be taught a lesson. These provocative remarks, however, were left unopposed, causing the Beijing leadership to conclude that Washington and Tokyo would tolerate its aggression.

The Vietnamese leaders repeatedly noted that if the U.S. and Japanese governments had not taken the position of conniving with Beijing's aggressive designs, the invasion by the Chinese forces could not possibly have taken place. This sort of connivance is even worse than the attitude of a bystander. In fact, it amounts to defense of the aggressor. Japan is virtually helping the Beijing leaders to extricate themselves from the disgraceful plight in which they now find themselves as a result of their criminal attack on Vietnam.

The USSR had warned Japan of the dangers inherent in the so-called antihegemony clause of the Japan-China treaty which Beijing forced upon Japan. This clause proved to be a screen covering up the hegemonist ambitions of the Chinese leadership and its aggression against Vietnam. The invasion of Vietnam serves as the most irrefutable evidence of Beijing's chauvinism and hegemonism.

Under these circumstances, it is not strange that the Japanese Government's attitude has proved to be of no help in applying a brake to the Beijing aggressors.

ARMY PAPER ON ELECTION DAY OUTLINES ROLE OF DEFENSE

ID081205 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Along Lenin's Course"]

[Excerpt] The CPSU is confidently leading our people along the correct course, Lenin's course. Our party's political line, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted in his speech to the voters, is aimed at improving socialist democracy and consolidating the fraternal friendship of all nations and ethnic groups of our motherland, strengthening the defense might of the land of the soviets, and insuring lasting peace and international security. It is precisely this political line, backed by the Soviet people's selfless labor, which lies at the basis of our society's successes. All the Soviet people warmly approve and unanimously support this political line of the party. The unity of the party and people makes it possible to advance confidently.

Each round of Soviet elections always has its own special features. Today's elections also have such features. We may say that they are jubilee elections: Soviet people are electing the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation. They are the first elections since the adoption of the new USSR Constitution-- a true manifesto of the society of developed socialism. The new Constitution has considerably expanded and enriched the citizens' socioeconomic, political and individual rights and freedoms. With its adoption the activity of the soviets of people's deputies was raised to a higher level and their role considerably enhanced in solving questions of economic and cultural building.

The most democratic, people's power, close and comprehensible to every working person-- that is what our soviets are. It is for precisely this reason that Soviet elections are always a great and joyful festival of the triumph of socialist democracy. In voting for the candidates of the indestructible bloc of Communists and nonparty people, Soviet people invest them with great powers and assign them the task of realizing the people's interests and will.

Together with all our people, the armed forces servicemen--full citizens of their great socialist power--are taking part in the election of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies. Like all Soviet people, they warmly approve and unanimously support the party's Leninist policy, which accords with the working people's fundamental interests.

The armed defenders of the motherland know that the party and the Soviet state are persistently and successfully implementing the peace program adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress and the program of further struggle for peace and international cooperation and the peoples' freedom and independence approved by the 25th party congress. But the world situation remains complex. The forces of imperialism and reaction are urging on the arms race, seeking to expand existing aggressive military-political blocs and create new ones, maintaining hotbeds of tension, and provoking military conflicts. The present Chinese leadership, which has unleashed an aggressive war against peace-loving Socialist Vietnam, is acting together with the most double-dyed world reaction.

The party and government, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said in his election speech, remember the voters' mandate: Reliably safeguard Soviet people's peaceful labor. This requires considerable funds to consolidate the country's security in both west and east. Our state spends on defense as much as is absolutely necessary, in accordance with the situation.

Soviet servicemen daily feel the party's tireless concern for the improvement of the armed forces and respond to it with deep devotion to the motherland, irreproachable fulfillment of the responsible tasks set them, and active struggle to strengthen the troops' combat readiness.

In its election address the CPSU Central Committee urged Soviet servicemen to vote for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people. This appeal received a lively response in the hearts of the motherland's armed defenders. The army and navy servicemen are unanimously voting today for the people's best sons and daughters and displaying their boundless devotion to the CPSU and their selfless love for the socialist motherland.

In electing USSR Supreme Soviet deputies we are voting for the party of Lenin--the leading and guiding force of Soviet society--and for the implementation of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions, for our dear Soviet power, for a new blossoming of our beloved motherland, for the triumph of communism.

Everyone--to the elections!

SHCHERBITSKIY VIEWS 1978 RESULTS, FUTURE TASKS FOR UKRAINE

AU072050 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 27 Feb 79 p 2 AU

[Article by V.V. Scherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary: "Let Us Work Creatively and With High Efficiency"]

[Excerpts] There is a folk saying: Every year is different. Indeed, each year has its distinctive and characteristic features. Yet for the Soviet people every year has one feature in common: the upward curve in developing their economy, culture and prosperity is increasing, and each year there is another peak attained.

All this occurs against the background of an ever growing upsurge in the political and labor initiative of the masses, of ever new upsurges of people's initiative in creative work. The basis of all our achievements is the wisdom and insight of the Leninist party, its directing will.

And it is only natural that, while taking another step on the 5-year route traced by the 25th CPSU Congress and while preparing to meet the USSR Supreme Soviet elections in a worthy way, the Soviet people manifest their monolithic unity around their own party. They ardently support its domestic and foreign policy, the fruitful activity of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo, headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman.

The contribution of the Ukrainian SSR working people to all the people's accomplishments is appreciable. While commemorating the 325th anniversary of the Ukraine's reunification with Russia, we saw once again the enormous culmination of our friendship, the roots of which were set ages ago. The Soviet Ukraine's remarkable successes and accomplishments result from pursuing the CPSU's Leninist nationality policy from inviolable friendship among the USSR peoples. The consolidation of the integral national economic complex, of close cooperation and mutual assistance among all the country's nations and ethnic groups guarantees a dynamic economic development, scientific and cultural blossoming for each republic.

Last year some development indices in the republic's economy were adversely affected by the unsatisfactory work of a number of enterprises under the Ukrainian Ministries of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Coal Industry and the Building Materials Industry, as well as under some other ministries and departments. The development of these branches has been hindered by the fact that new capacities were being put into operation too slowly and the existing ones were not fully utilized. Both the plans for adopting new equipment and increasing labor productivity and the tasks for economizing material resources and raw materials were underfulfilled.

For example, the coal industry was sharply criticized for its lag at the Ukrainian CP Central Committee December 1978 Plenum. Since the mines of such coal mining associations as the Stakhanov, the Donbass anthracite, the Pervomaysk and the Dobropolye were working poorly, last year the target was missed by millions of tons of fuel. Meanwhile, in the branch coal mining associations such as the Donetsk and the west Ukrainian, there are as many mines that successfully coped with the 1978 plans and tasks. What is the matter? Why did frontranking collectives with their experiences not find followers among the others? There were quite a few reasons, and ranking foremost among them were shortcomings in organizational work performed by the ministry and a number of its local organs, as well as omissions in the activity of some party and soviet organizations.

This year the republic's miners are expected to supply 218 million tons of coal, or 7 million tons more than last year. It is possible to attain the target. In the branch there is an entire army of experienced cutters and other skilled specialists. There are remarkable labor initiatives by prominent miners. There are also the material and technical resources necessary. Everything now depends primarily on the organization of the task, on the ability to rally and guide the people toward attaining the targets set. Last year many ferrous metallurgy enterprises worked below their capacities. Shortcomings in production and labor organizations ranked high among the causes of such a state of affairs.

To know how to manage is to know how to triumph. These words by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev best define the crux of the matter. In view of the fact that the economy is developing at an enormous pace, it is impossible to run it and to switch over to the track of intensive development in the old fashion, without improving the methods of management and without boosting efficient organization and cooperation in all fields of communal production.

But are all leaders mastering in earnest the new methods of management? Apparently not. Some of them lack abilities and experience. The others act in line with the principle: "Keep out of trouble," looking for someone to relieve them of their responsibility. Still others do try but they are frequently isolated and unable to unite the collective and stir up its enthusiasm. Even if against the background of experienced organizers able to switch over to new management methods the number of such persons is rather small, we cannot and must not overlook their shortcomings.

Cadres and cadres alone are decisive for the success of any matter. This is an axiom.

At the same time, however, one must not sanction "criticism due to inertia," when some persons, without having grasped the essence, jump to the conclusion that an innovation allegedly still does not serve the purpose, that the conditions are still not ripe, and so forth. Such an underestimate of advanced experience, as well as inadequate organizational and political work, are mainly accountable for the lag in individual collectives.

The state of affairs in this field must be remedied without any delay because, whereas early in the 5-year period there was time to make up for the lag, at present any slip can affect the general results. To constantly scrutinize the activity of enterprises and associations, the style of economic management, and to look for the most suitable way to overcome the difficulties--this is required from party committees and basic organizations. Each of them, as the November 1978 CPSU Central Committee Plenum said, must carefully investigate the state of affairs and resolve what experience is to be adopted, what forms of work are obsolete and ineffective, and how to get rid of shortcomings hampering successful progress.

Our motherland, the Soviet Union, is great and immense. From the Kara Sea to the Black Sea, from the Carpathian Mountains to Chukotka, it stretches across many latitudes and longitudes. Yet the Soviet people keep the same time, and the brotherly peoples live and work in the same rhythm. They approach the future with confidence and optimism. This confidence is based on our party's indefatigable and purposeful activity aimed at improving the people's prosperity, at insuring peaceful conditions for creative work, general peace and international security.

The treacherous attack launched by China against Socialist Vietnam has aroused deep indignation. This adventure has made the hegemonist designs of the present Beijing leadership quite obvious. While wholeheartedly supporting the statement issued by the Soviet Government in connection with the encroachment made by Chinese troops upon the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Ukraine's working people, like all Soviet citizens, express their solidarity with the fraternal Vietnamese people in their just struggle for freedom and independence. "Hands off Socialist Vietnam!"--they declare resolutely, even more persistently strengthening the economic and defense potential of our united union state.

Monolithic unity among all nations and ethnic groups of the Soviet Union, their cohesion around their own Communist Party, and the nationwide approval of and support for the general line pursued by the CPSU guarantee new successes in the struggle for communism, peace and social progress.

To continue the selfless work in the name of the prosperity of the socialist motherland and to reach ever new peaks in the struggle to attain the bright ideals of communism--this is the sacred will and unanimous desire of the Soviet Ukraine's working people.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 7-8 MARCH

LD080644 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1130 GMT 7 March reports during a program devoted to the 25th anniversary of the conquest of the virgin lands, linking Kazakhstan with Kuybyshev, Orenburg and the Altay, that most tractors have been made ready in north Kazakhstan and that snow retention has been completed on the whole grain area in Orenburgskaya Oblast. It adds that a new scientific-production association which will supply seeds for various zones in the oblast, including the east, has been set up here. Nearly 90 percent of the tractors are ready in the Altay. It says that experiments are being carried out at a research institute in Kazakhstan to grow grain on structural alkali soil.

At 1600 GMT the radio reports that sowing of spring crops has begun in the Kuban. About 500,000 hectares are to be sown to spring grain crops.

At 0000 GMT on 8 March the radio reports that construction of the third enrichment factory has been started at the apatit production association. The factory is designed for an annual output of almost 10 million tons of raw material for phosphorous fertilizers. Altogether over the 5-year plan period capacities throughout the country for the production of fertilizers will increase by 57 million tons.

The radio also reports that the builders of the Dangara irrigation tunnel in Tadzhikistan have begun work on the third shaft. The tunnel is being driven through the Vakhsh mountain range. Water from Nurek GES will begin to reach 100,000 hectares of arid land.

At 0100 GMT the radio reports that in Chelyabinskaya Oblast over 90 percent of tractors and other equipment are ready for spring fieldwork.

At 1430 GMT the radio reports that in Krymskaya Oblast, sowing of early crops has been completed in Bakhchisarayskiy and Belogorskiy rayons. A number of farms are carrying out the reseeding of part of the winter crops which perished in the severe cold. Farmworkers are trying to make the 2 million ton gross grain harvest a norm for the oblast.

The radio also reports that in Kazakhstan the first few thousand hectares have been sown to spring crops in the south, chiefly in areas near the Chardara reservoir and the Talass Valley.

The radio then reports that in Moldavia soil cultivating machinery has been brought out to the fields everywhere. Moisture retention work and winter crop dressing are in progress. Selective sowing of early spring crops has started in southern districts. Most farms have pledged grain yields this year of no less than 40 quintals per hectare.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

COL GEN SOBOLEV HAILS SOVIET ARMED FORCES ON ARMY DAY

LD090909 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 23 Feb 79 p 1 LD

[Article by Col Gen M. Sobolev, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Administration: "Guarding Peace"]

[Excerpt] We need peace in order to successfully solve our creative tasks. For this reason, safeguarding a just and lasting peace is the main issue in international politics today. "Socialism and peace are indivisible," the party Central Committee's address to all USSR voters and citizens says: "From Lenin's Decree on Peace right up to the present the land of the soviets' foreign policy has been imbued with the love of peace. Our people, who lost 20 million of their sons and daughters in the struggle against fascism, know the meaning of war. And for us there is no cause more sacred than preserving lasting peace!"

The party and the Soviet state are persistently and successfully implementing the peace program put forward by the 24th CPSU Congress and the program of further struggle for peace and international cooperation and the people's freedom and independence approved by the 25th party congress.

At the same time the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies must take account of the fact that the forces of imperialism and reaction have become more active of late. The world situation has become more complex. Amid clamor about a "Soviet threat" the military-industrial complex of the leading capitalist powers has indulged in aggressive militarist activities on an unprecedented scale and is applying a further twist to the arms race. In the United States and other NATO countries military spending has reached record levels.

Through the fault of international imperialism dangerous hotbeds of tension and conflict situations are continuing and new ones are emerging. The situation in the Near East, where with active U.S. assistance attempts are being made to substitute a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal for a comprehensive political settlement of the crisis, has become considerably more complex. Continuing its interference in Iranian affairs, U.S. imperialism is trying to preserve its economic and strategic positions in the Near East at all costs. Provocations against Ethiopia, Angola and other African states are continuing.

China's present leaders are acting in concert with imperialism's aggressive forces in the struggle against detente and the normalization of the international political climate. China's treacherous attack on Socialist Vietnam provoked general outrage and indignation among the Soviet people. As the Soviet Government's statement emphasizes, the Chinese troops' invasion of Vietnam cannot be a matter of indifference to a single honest person in the world. Hands off Socialist Vietnam!--all our people are demanding. Pursuing hegemonist aims, Beijing is openly siding with imperialists, above all in the United States and Japan, calling for a strengthening of the aggressive NATO bloc and continuing a malicious anti-Soviet policy.

Under these conditions the CPSU and the Soviet state, while consistently pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy, at the same time devote unremitting attention to strengthening the country's defense might and heroic armed forces. Shoulder to shoulder with the socialist community countries' fraternal armies in the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Armed Forces are vigilantly guarding the socialist countries' security and are the main factor in the preservation of peace on our planet.

ARMED FORCES CAN RAPIDLY ACQUIRE ANY WEAPON USED BY ENEMIES

LD061507 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 23 Feb 79 p 3 LD

[Article by Col Gen Engr N. Alekseyev, USSR deputy defense minister: "Standing Guard Over the Motherland"]

[Excerpts] Together with the entire country and people, the Soviet Army has traveled a tremendous path marked by victories of world-historic significance and unrivaled mass heroism, staunchness and courage on the part of Soviet servicemen.

The heroic history of the Soviet Armed Forces shows convincingly and graphically that the main, decisive source of their might and invincibility has been and remains the guidance of the Communist Party. Thanks to the constant concern of the CPSU and all the Soviet people, our army and navy are keeping abreast of modern scientific and technical progress. And if necessary they can very rapidly be provided with any type of weapon on which their enemies would like to gamble.

All branches of the Soviet Armed Forces and categories of troops have been developed proportionately. Our Strategic Missile Forces are provided with powerful missile systems capable of hitting a target with great accuracy in any part of the world. The Ground Forces are fully motorized. They have been equipped with the most sophisticated tanks, infantry combat vehicles, missiles and automatic firearms. The air defense servicemen have antimissile complexes manufactured in accordance with the last word in science and technology, and ready at any minute to repel an airborne attack at any altitude or speed. The Air Force's formidable missile carriers can successfully resolve the most complex tasks. The Soviet Navy, equipped with nuclear-powered submarines and surface ships, aircraft and helicopters, has emerged onto the ocean expanses.

But the socialist fatherland's defense might is determined not only by the country's developed economy and the armed forces' provision with all types of first-class military equipment and weapons. The decisive factor in this might lies in the inexhaustible moral powers of our people and their army, and Soviet people's boundless devotion to their motherland and the party's cause.

In greeting the 61st anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, army and navy servicemen regard their military labor as a component part of the nationwide struggle to fulfill the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. They are focusing their attention on raising the combat readiness of units and ships, consolidating discipline and organization and introducing progressive methods of operating and maintaining equipment. They are displaying indestructible unity and cohesion around the Communist Party, their devotion to the ideals of communism, and a high degree of readiness to reliably defend our people's great gains.